

PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCES

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OF

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THE PRESIDENT

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1944 -- JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30

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J. Romagna (PCs 930 to 959)  
OFFICIAL REPORTER



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #930

Executive Office of the President

January 18, 1944 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

(this is the first press conference held after the President's recovery from the 'flu. The Budget Seminar was held this year by Harold Smith, Director of the Budget, instead of the President)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think, first of all, I should say Happy New Year. (laughter)

I also -- I want to assure you that I am no longer contagious, and Dr. (Ross T.) McIntire hopes that none of you are contagious. (more laughter)

I have one very nice thing -- getting back -- the railroad strike is settled. All the differences have been worked out this afternoon. I have a letter from Mr. (J. J.) Pelley (President, Association of American Railroads) this afternoon I might read you, which explains it, I think.

(reading): "Supplementing my letter to you of January 14, in which I advised you of the successful result of negotiations between the Carriers' Conference Committee and the Firemen's, Conductors' and Switchmen's organizations, I beg now to advise that the Carriers' Conference Committee have reached an agreement with the fifteen Non-operating Employees' Associations -- Organizations.



"This agreement ratifies the graduated scale increases which were recommended by the Special Emergency Board and not disapproved by the Stabilization Director, and also disposes of the issue of time-and-a-half for work performed in excess of 40 hours a week.

"The agreement was submitted to Judge Vinson this morning for his consideration, and we are hopeful that he will find it consistent with the stabilization program."

I can put in right there that he has sent word to me that he is going to approve, and will do so formally sometime tomorrow.

(continuing reading): "The agreement contains provision that the allowance which has been agreed upon in lieu of overtime will become effective as of December 27, 1943, and like other provisions of the agreement is, of course, subject to Government approval.

"You addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, in which you asked him to make the overtime provisions in the case of the Conductors, Firemen and Switchmen effective as of December 27, and it is respectfully suggested that you will find it appropriate similarly to advise the Secretary as to the effective date of the supplementary increase in lieu of overtime in the case of the fifteen Non-operating organizations."

Which I will do.

(continuing reading): "Should this agreement with the Non-operating organizations receive Government approval, it will dispose of the entire wage controversy between the carriers



represented by the Eastern, Western and Southeastern Carriers' Conference Committees and their operating and non-operating organizations.

"We are deeply appreciative of the invaluable assistance which you have personally rendered to the parties."

Then I can add to that that this final agreement with the Non-ops, I think that by tomorrow we will be able to have it put into effect. It applies also to the short lines. They were not a party to this particular controversy between the carriers and the Non-ops, but of course it should be uniform, is that right?

MR. EARLY: The Shaw Board will recommend that tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: The Shaw Board will recommend that tomorrow morning. It also applies, because they were not a party, I think, to the Railway Express employees. So it looks as if it's all cleared up.

Q. Mr. President, does this mean the railroads will be returned immediately to them?

THE PRESIDENT: I will, in my letter to the Secretary -- this only came in in the last ten minutes -- I am writing the Secretary of War tonight to tell him that he has authority on the Executive Order to turn the railroads back.

Now, let's see.

Q. Mr. President, before you get on anything else, could you say whether the terms were that the 9 to 11 cents graduated scale had been -----?

THE PRESIDENT: They have agreed that the employees



at the top of the payroll would be paid the additional 5 cents, making them 9, which is the same amount allotted to the Ops, but in the case of the Ops it was allotted on account of time-and-a-half and expenses-away-from-home. All the Non-ops, however, will not receive the 5 cents. Instead of being 5 cents across the board which was given to the Ops, it's 5 cents down to 1 cent. It's tapered off to 1 cent for those in the lower brackets. Therefore, the men whose pay is less than the Shaw Panel gave them, making the total increase 11 cents. Those are the people who -- (pausing) -- terribly complicated.

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir. It's all mixed up.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in a nutshell, the people down the line getting 47 cents, and -- I don't know what the next -- next schedule -- 54 cents -- they get, the 47-centers, get 11 cents, and the next lowest paid get 10 cents, and the operating people offer no objection at all because they all get -- what? -- 82 cents, so they are not affected in any way. In that case, there's no discrimination.

Q. Mr. President, the provision as to time-and-a-half for overtime is that it would go above the 9 to 11 cents?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Same.

THE PRESIDENT: 11 cents for the lowest paid people, 10 cents for the next group lowest from the bottom, and then 9 cents after that for everybody else.

Q. 9 cents for everybody over 57, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, well, whatever it is. Now you



are getting complicated. I think so. Put in the word approximately. (laughter)

I got -- I got a memorandum here -- may be a little clearer. The Non-ops and the carriers agree to settle all below 47 cents -- below 47 cents to get an 11 cents increase, instead of the 10 cents which was awarded by the Shaw Board in their first meeting. Between 47 and 57 -- you are right the first time -- they will get 10 cents instead of 9. The rest will get 9.

MR. D. CORNELL (A.P.): Mr. President -- excuse me. When you tell the Secretary of War tonight that he has the authority under the Executive Order to turn the roads back, will you recommend that he do that?

THE PRESIDENT: He has the authority, ---

MR. D. CORNELL: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and he is the man running the railroads.

MR. D. CORNELL: Well, you anticipate then that that authority will be exercised at once?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not anticipating anything these days.

MR. D. CORNELL: If you were us, would you anticipate?  
(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Douglas, I am inclined to think, if I were in your place, I might make the guess. (more laughter)

MR. D. CORNELL: Maybe I shall.



THE PRESIDENT: Then a statement, which Steve (Early) will give you when you go out, on the Fourth War Loan Drive. It's an excellent statement, which I did not write, but don't tell anybody that. Neither did the Treasury. Steve did it. (laughter) You'll recognize his style. (more laughter)

Then I got a report from Leo Crowley on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, some of which is of real interest. There's a lot of figures in here -- I won't give you all this now, just the last paragraph.

(reading): "Insured banks today are in the soundest position they have ever enjoyed. We cannot forecast banking developments during the post-war period that will affect the assets of the F.D.I.C. It is a pleasure to be able to report to you, however, that the Corporation is in a financial position that should enable it easily to care for whatever demands eventuate."

Then I have only got one other thing, and that is just to tell you that -- you probably know it -- I have seen in the past week Eisenhower and Halsey and Lieutenant General Kenney, who came back from the two ends of the earth for consultation, to insure the coordination of operations so that the greatest possible pressure can be brought to bear on the European and Pacific areas simultaneously, and also to insure that the distribution of our equipment and supplies is being made with that end in -- in view.

Outside of that, I don't think I have got anything.

Q. Mr. President, there was a court decision that



affects membership in a widely known press association. Would you like to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't see that. What was it, Supreme Court?

Q. No, sir. It was a special -- special Federal court.

THE PRESIDENT: That -- that one in New York ---

Q. (interjecting) A.P. (Associated Press)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- sometime ago?

Q. A few days ago.

THE PRESIDENT: What was new about it? There was a first one about three or four months ago.

Q. It puts some limitation -- requires some limitation on membership. I am not just sure of the technicalities of it.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Well, I don't think I ought to comment on that. Does the country club still exist? (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, everybody seems to be wondering why a certain newspaper published a certain rumor from Cairo. I wondered if you had any hunch ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't got any more than what I have read in the papers. Just as much mystified as anybody else.

Q. Mr. President, on that subject, would there be anything you could tell us by way of background that would give some insight into what this incident is all about?

THE PRESIDENT: What?



Q. I am referring to the Pravda -- the Pravda news item. I am just wondering whether you would say anything off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got the faintest idea. The same -- and don't quote me on this -- this is off the record -- I am buffaloed.

Q. We all are.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Completely. I don't know, ---

Q. (interposing) Is there any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- don't -- this is off the record too -- I talked with the British Ambassador, and he is just as much in the dark as I am.

Q. Sir, I wondered if there was any comment you would care to make on the Polish situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it at all.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #931  
Executive Office of the President  
February 1, 1944 -- 4.01 P.M., E.W.T.

(Archibald MacLeish, the Librarian of Congress,  
was a guest at this press conference)

(also, a Miss Jean Appleton was making a charcoal sketch of the President while the press conference was in progress)

Q. Doug lost his notebook, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Doug what?

Q. He has lost his notebook. Doug lost his notebook on the way in. (laughter)

(no one seeming disposed to help him out, this reporter handed him an extra shorthand notebook)

MR. D. CORNELL: Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: There you are. Just another form of newspaper graft. (laughter)

Q. Well, sir, small at that.

THE PRESIDENT: Getting something more out of the Government. (more laughter)

Q. Expand on it.

THE PRESIDENT: That's all right. I think we



ought to send him a bill, don't you?

Q. I think so -- for about a dollar and a half.

THE PRESIDENT: Dollar and a half, I suppose.

MR. D. CORNELL: I'll give most of it back.

THE PRESIDENT: Put it on the expense account.

Q. For three and a half.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have -- I haven't got much new information. Out on the ticker all that we know about the attack on the -- on the Marshall Islands. You have probably seen it, that a powerful naval force consisting of all types of vessels supporting the invasion has landed on the Marshall -- in the Kwajalein, commanded by Vice Admiral (R. A.) Spruance. And I think the operation is going up to this time quite well, with heavy opposition. So we are all waiting to see what happens.

In that connection, I dictated to Steve (Early) -- it has been mimeographed and you will get it when you go out -- something that I hope will clarify the air a little bit on what we are doing in the Far East as a whole.

The American objectives in India or elsewhere in continental Asia are to expel and defeat the Japanese, in the closest collaboration with British, Chinese and other Allies in that theatre.

Our task in expelling the Japanese from Burma, Malaya, Java and other territory, including all the islands, is military. We recognize that our British and Dutch brothers-in-arms are



as determined to throw the Japanese out of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies as we are determined to free the Philippines. We propose to help each other on the roads, and in the waters, and above them eastward from where we are now to these places -- No, westward from where we are now and eastward from the Burma area to these places and beyond as far as Tokyo. No matter what individual or individuals command in any given area, the purpose is the same.

There will, of course, be plenty of problems when we get there. The solution will be easier if we all employ our utmost resources of experience, goodwill and good faith. Nobody in India, or anywhere else in Asia, will misunderstand the presence there of American armed forces, if they will believe, as we do at home, that their job is to assure the defeat of Japan without which there can be no opportunity for any of us to enjoy and expand the freedoms for which we all are fighting.

Of course, in that connection, I think the country is very much startled by the atrocity stories the other day, and very rightly. The particular stories came in, I think it was about five or six months ago, and when they came in the first impulse of almost everybody was to release them immediately. But after we slept on it about overnight, we took it up with the military, both here and abroad. We took it up with the British government and the Chinese government, and humanitarian considerations at that time were given consideration. In other words, at that time we were still running the GRIPSHOLM back



and forth, and we were thinking not merely of the terrible things that had been done to American prisoners and British prisoners, we were also -- also thinking of those who survived; and we thought, then, that the publication of these atrocity stories might incite the Japanese to kill a great many other American soldiers.

And so -- so from that humanitarian point of view, in an effort to save American lives, and hoping that the Japanese would allow more prisoners to be exchanged and got out of Japan, we held it up with the reservation that just as soon as it seemed to be hopeless to get food and supplies into the hands of American prisoners we would say nothing until that time -- hopeless time came.

Well, over the past two or three weeks it became more and more clear that there was grave doubt as to whether our packages and other supplies -- medical supplies -- for our troops were actually getting in, and we came to the reluctant conclusion that they were not getting to our people; and therefore the story was published.

And I think that from now on we have got to regard it as a pretty -- that we probably can't hurt our own men by publishing these stories, and that being so the country ought to know the stories. We thought, of course, a great deal about the suffering that would be caused to the families of many of the people of this country, like the families of that little community down in New Mexico, and another one in Illinois, where almost every family had some member of the family in what had



been the old State Guard forces from that locality, that were taken into the regular Army and sent out to the Philippines before the seventh of December, 41. I think everybody in the country will have the utmost sympathy for them, and horror on what has been done to American troops in these towns, and a great many other towns in the -- in the country.

I think it gives us a pretty good slant, also, on the mentality of the Japanese. I have spoken of that before, and I think -- I think we all feel even more strongly about it today than we did then.

We are moving as fast as is humanly possible to move. It's all very well to say we ought to move faster. Well, unless you have a good deal of the knowledge of just how you would move faster, it would be better not to write that. I am always open to suggestions of how to move faster.

Q. Mr. President, at the time that our Government learned of the mistreatment and the execution of some of the flyers who accompanied General Doolittle, you issued a statement that individual Japanese responsible for this crime would be tracked down and ultimately punished and brought to justice.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question about that, and that would apply to all the atrocities in the Philippines.

Q. Specifically will apply to this case?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

(adding) May have to put the F.B.I. on them.

(laughter)

I don't think I have got anything else, for the time



being.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment on the reports that Elmer Davis (head of O.W.I.) has resigned, or is going to resign, and is going to be succeeded by Byron Price?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Of course, you all know that there has been a great -- grave difference of opinion on an administrative problem. It isn't on the objectives or the policies. There is a difference of opinion on how to administer this, that and one or two other things. And I am working on it now. I haven't got any news on it yet.

Q. Mr. President, there was a report in the paper yesterday that the Administration was about ready to give up King Victor Emanuel in Italy.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You would have to ask the Secretary of State about that. I don't think that that story, put that way, is exactly the way I would put it. I would put it this way, that -- as firmly determined as ever before that the Italian people are going to do the deciding, as to whether they want him or anybody else. I don't think it's up to us to make that decision for them by a mere dictum. I would like to have them express themselves.

Q. Mr. President, to return to the Japanese situation for one more question, is there any reason, sir, why the full text of the latest representations forwarded by this Government to Japan should not be made public by the State Department?

THE PRESIDENT: They have made -- State Department,



I think, has made something like 89 representations to Japan.

Q. The final representation, sir, was forwarded in two notes on the 27th. A synopsis of that note was made public yesterday, but the specific content of it was not made public. Do you think that the full note might be made public at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to read it first. All I know is that a note to that effect was forwarded. You had better ask the Secretary of State. If he thinks it's all right to give out the full note, it's all right with me.

Q. Mr. President, have you any new developments on progress in the direction of the soldier vote which -- in the form which you requested?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Didn't they -- Steve told me that it was -- brought me the news clip that there has been some kind of a vote in the House, but I couldn't tell you what kind. Something about a committee.

Q. There was a vote not to have a roll call.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, any more chances for any more votes on the same subject? I suppose -- I suppose we had better wait and not comment on it. Everybody knows what I feel about the roll call. I think it's part of representative government. I couldn't cast an intelligent vote -- has been more difficult in the past -- without knowing to some degree as to how my own Congressman voted.

And by the way, I have got a different Congressman



this fall. We have been redistricted in Dutchess (County).

(laughter)

Q. Are you glad?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Are you glad, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am -- I am always neutral, you know. (more laughter)

Q. (aside) All right?

Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #932  
Executive Office of the President  
February 4, 1944 -- 11.05 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that we can all join in sorrow on hearing about Ray Clapper's death out there in the Marshall Islands. I think he is a real loss; I think we all feel that. It's all part of the -- part of duty.

In that connection, Steve (Early) brought me in a telegram this morning that Roy Roberts sent to him as president of the A.S.N.E. -- newspaper editors society -- and I was so much pleased with it that -- it's about the same -- same general action in the Marshall Islands, that -- (reading): "I just want you to know how appreciative American press is over the efficient manner in which the news has been handled from Marshall Islands, and the splendid cooperation given by the Navy. It sets a high mark. I have talked to several directors of A.S.N.E. and they all felt same way about it. Roy Roberts."

I think, really, on these operations, we are getting things down -- after many tries and false steps -- down to a pretty good system of working out our news-gathering in the -- in the active areas. And apparently in the Marshall thing, of course the -- the chief element of it -- necessary element is the secrecy of the operation. We got into the Marshall Islands with apparently no warning to the Japanese. Now I think that that meant we probably saved a great many lives on these different islands. The cooperation out there has been



exceedingly good. And I am glad that -- to have Steve get that telegram from Roy Roberts, because it does show clearly some appreciation of the fact that we are trying to cooperate in the gathering and dissemination of news.

I have got a statement here -- which you get afterwards -- on the signing of the mustering-out payments bill, which is a first step. It's a little difficult to -- the way I did it in the first place -- not quite accurate -- come to that in a minute.

(reading, not literally): "The passage of this bill is a step in the comprehensive program that I have recommended for the post-war period on July 28, 1943, and again October 27, 1943, and November 23, 1943, for the special protection of the members of the armed forces. Will ease the period of transition -- that's a better word -- from military to civilian life, by providing the funds immediately needed to enable our service men and women to look out for jobs -- look for jobs and resume their peacetime pursuits.

"This is an important first step in the program of demobilization. The other measures recommended in the program, however, should also be adopted.

"The Federal Government should make it financially possible, for example, for members of the armed forces to resume their interrupted studies and educate and train themselves for peacetime jobs and responsibilities. The future welfare of this nation requires that we promptly make good the educational deficit created by war.



"We must also provide our service men and women with social security credits for the period of their military service, so that they may fully enjoy the benefits of the social security laws on their return to civilian life.

"We must make our plans now to take the necessary steps to see to it that there will be good jobs awaiting our returning service men and women. But we must anticipate that there may be unemployment during the period of reconversion, and we must therefore establish now suitable machinery for the payment of reasonable unemployment allowances to those veterans who are unable to obtain jobs within a reasonable period after their discharge.

"Through the prompt enactment of this program of veterans benefits, we shall furnish those who have served their country in the armed forces with the same sense of security that they have richly earned, and which is so necessary to a high fighting morale."

I don't think we should in any way consider this a step towards demobilization, because right at the -- at the height of a war there are certain elements of demobilization that are going on long before there is any actual demobilization. The best example I know of is the fact that I think it's just about a million men and women who were in the armed services who have been returned to civil life, although we are still increasing the size of the armed services. In other words, demobilization is not the -- the word -- I don't quite know how to put it -- transition is a better word. But not



through a peace program. We can't look forward to any given -- given date on that, but there is a lot more that can be done before the war ends, as I have tried to point out.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the present status of the soldier vote?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say it was more up to the Congress than up to me. In other words, in all probability, that is a more proximate responsibility of theirs at this time than it is of mine.

Oh, I -- I will save Steve's life, because -- Steve came in yesterday morning with blood in his eye. (laughter)

I said, "What's the trouble?"

"Oh," he said, "they woke me up three times during the night, after midnight, to ask if you had been under the knife."

That was the headline desired. (more laughter)

And I said, "Sure, I was under the knife. I am under the knife whenever I cut my fingernails." (more laughter)

But actually, I don't know why I should talk about this, it's merely -- it might be called a -- a preventive -- and that is very often necessary, to use a preventible -- I had a pain for -- I don't know, what? -- twenty years or less; and I don't know, what you call a wen on the back of my head. And it had grown a bit lately, so I went out to the Naval Hospital, and two very good surgeons, and knives, and God knows what, removed it under a local anesthetic. I think I was in the hospital half an hour. So now she's out.



Q. Did those -- Mr. President, did those Naval "gims" permit you to smoke while they did their hacking, -- (laughter) -- to relieve ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, but I yelled for a cigarette right after it. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you any observation on Mr. (Wendell) Willkie's speech urging higher taxation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will put it this way, that I didn't have the nerve to ask for sixteen billion, I only asked for ten. (laughter) But Mr. Willkie, as in my case, we were thinking a little bit about the next generation and not just about this generation.

Q. Mr. President, have you any news on the Davis-Sherwood matter?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Nothing yet.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you received a report on the latest action of Russia, giving foreign affairs powers to the constituent republics?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Pete, I read it with great interest; and possibly because of a very long experience, unlike some other people, I am making no comment whatsoever, for the very simple reason that I don't know; and that requires, probably, more courage than almost anything else in this world: to say nothing when you don't know -- to use a homily.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us whether a director has been selected for the new War Refugee Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking to Secretary Hull



about it.

Q. Hasn't been decided?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, No.

Q. Mr. President, is there any change now in our relations with Spain or with Franco, any new development, in your opinion ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Nothing has come to me. Better ask the State Department about it. As you know, there have been a good many headaches there, but the British and ourselves are working together on it, to see that Spain remains neutral in the -- in the true sense of the word.

Q. Is that effort working, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That is a case where I have to say I hope so.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #933  
Executive Office of the President  
February 5, 1944 -- 11.45 A.M., E.W.T.

(this press conference was held for the  
Negro Newspaper Publishers Association --  
some fifteen members present)

(John Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender  
introduced each member to the President)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope you get to the Senate  
and House press galleries. That will be the next step, but  
this is a White House (press) conference that I think is all  
arranged, that is working out all right.

There is one thing that I think we could mention --  
I see you are taking notes, don't publish them -- and that is  
this, that I certainly would have the colored editors Associa-  
tion -- I suppose you haven't got one -- you will get one --  
so as to come in once a year and see me on an off the record  
talk, just the same way as I see the American Newspaper --  
what is it? ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) American Society of News-  
paper Editors.

THE PRESIDENT: They come in once a year, and I talk  
about half an hour or an hour to them. They ask me questions,  
over at the White House, and it's all off the record; it's for  
-- for information. And I think it would be a good thing if



your Association could come in once a year, just the way they do, and talk off the record for a half-hour or an hour. It seems to work pretty well.

MR. THEODORE POSTON (O.W.I.): That would be swell.

THE PRESIDENT: And -- well, I am glad you have got something that can really -- that you can pin it on, that it is a daily newspaper without any question. (laughter) We have been waiting for a long time for it.

MR. JOHN SENGSTACKE: Mr. President, on behalf of the Negro Newspapers Association, may I thank you for your courtesy in seeing this committee from our Association. Our Association, which represents Negro newspapers with over ninety-five percent of Negro press coverage, is resolved to do everything that it can to help win the war and the peace that follows.

In this connection, we are asking Mr. Prattis to read a statement which is representative of the thinking of our Association and membership.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

MR. P. L. PRATTIS (Pittsburgh Courier): Mr. President, we are Americans. Our allegiance to the ideals and guarantees and principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States is unlimited and unsullied.

This is our country, to share with all other Americans. We have purchased our stake, in this our native land, with our blood and toil during more than three hundred years. We have a right and a duty to share its blessings, its sacrifices and its sufferings.



This is our war. Negro Americans on every battle-front are giving their lives to defend the soil, the homes and the democratic ideals of their native land. They, and we, are fighting for the freedom of America and of all oppressed and exploited peoples.

We deplore any and all forms of disunity that threaten the winning of victory for Democracy. We extend our hands to all Americans who join in the crusade for liberty for all peoples, a better world and a better nation in which true Democracy may prevail.

The Negro's paramount objective is to help win the war and to establish a just and enduring peace, under which all men may achieve human dignity and equality of opportunity. The Negro wholeheartedly and unreservedly supports the Federal Government in prosecuting the war, and in planning post-war reconstructions toward the above ends.

That second class -- we believe that second class citizenship, now imposed in many ways upon Negroes in America, violates the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, prevents full utilization of the material and moral resources of our country at war, and destroys all possibility of a just and enduring peace.

We maintain that it is our duty and obligation to fight for every right guaranteed by the Constitution to all people, for to refrain from doing so would impair our Democracy at home and abroad by weakening the principles on which it is founded.



We maintain that the Federal Government should begin now to use its authority and powers of persuasion to end abridgement of the Negro's citizenship, so as to bring about a more truly democratic America. Such action would support our claim that we fight for a world order in which economic equality, political self-determination, and social justice both prevail.

It is our resolve to work for the abolition of the color bar in industry, still maintained by many employers and labor unions to the detriment of our war effort.

For equal opportunity to Negroes for employment and advancement in public services.

For equality in all public educational facilities.

For unrestricted suffrage in national, state and municipal elections, including all primary elections.

For full protection by government in the enjoyment of all civil rights and liberties established by law.

For the principle that government should not impose, enforce or sanction patterns of racial segregation.

For full protection and equality of treatment and opportunity for Negroes in the armed forces of the United States, according them the respect which the uniform should command.

For extension of the system of social security, which recognizes the right of the individual to self-development, protection against the hazards of illness, unemployment and want, and promotes the orderly development of the nation's resources.

For application of the Atlantic Charter to all



colonial and other exploited peoples, not only Europeans and Asiatics, but also Africans and peoples of African descent throughout the world.

For full participation by the United States in establishing and maintaining such international machinery as may be necessary to establish a world order in which economic equality, political self-determination, and social justice will prevail.

This statement is respectfully submitted by our Association.

We desire to bring to your attention one specific matter concerning our boys in the armed services. Mr. Lewis will bring that to your attention.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's an awfully good statement.

MR. IRA LEWIS (Pittsburgh Courier): Mr. President, may I go back, first, to your statement inviting us to come in once a year to have an off the record talk with you. I appreciate your optimism, and I would say January 22 (1945), in so far as I am concerned. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll probably be down in Georgia then. (more laughter)

MR. IRA LEWIS: Candidly, Mr. President, we are, of course, very thankful for this audience and this opportunity to speak to you.

Mr. President, Prattis's statement started out, "We are Americans." That is the way we look at it. I don't



think there is any group of citizens in this country who love this country more ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

MR. IRA LEWIS: (continuing) --- than the Negro people. This is the only home they know. Now, the question in their minds is as to whether they are expressing -- whether they are giving their full share of the contribution not only to the war but what is due (to come).

There is one very pressing question that is causing the colored people lots of concern. I think that we represent here perhaps five or six million readers, and that question is posed to us at all times. It is a grievous and vexing one. It has to do with the treatment of our boys in the armed services. They haven't been treated right by civilian police, and by the MPs. We know of instances where soldiers on furlough have come home and taken off their uniform, on account of intimidation.

And they think, Mr. President, that that is your responsibility. They think that you alone can correct that. I think you can put your hand right on the question, which will do more towards strengthening morale and making more for unity and making the Negro citizen believe that he is a part of this great commonwealth. Just one word from you, we all feel, would do that.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad you brought that up, because I have been in touch with it. It is perfectly true, there is



definite discrimination in the actual treatment of the colored engineer troops, and others. And you are up against -- you know perfectly well -- I have talked about it -- I had the Secretary of War and the Assistant -- everybody in on it. The trouble lies fundamentally in the attitude of certain white people -- officers down the line ---

MR. IRA LEWIS: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- who haven't got very much more education, many of them, than the colored troops and the Seabees and the engineers, for example. And they -- well, you know -- you know the kind of person it is. We all do. We don't have to do more than think of a great many people that we know. And it has become not a question of orders -- they are repeated fairly often, I think, in all the camps of colored troops -- it's a question of the personality of the individual. And we are up against it, absolutely up against it. I always think of the fact that it probably is improving. I like to think that mere association helps things along.

I always think of -- what was it? -- two or three years ago -- not an election trip -- I was down in Chattanooga. A very interesting thing happened. I was going all around to the points of interest in Chattanooga -- I think I dedicated one of the dams -- and I drove with Governor Cooper through the streets, the southern end of Chattanooga -- through the Negro section.

And there was tremendous enthusiasm to see the President. And suddenly we came onto this broad avenue that was



running south, we came to a place where all the enthusiasm quit and stopped; and there were a good many colored people on the streets, but they just stood there, they were completely apathetic.

And I turned to Cooper. I said, "What's the matter with these people?"

He said, "You are not in Tennessee any longer, you are in Georgia." (laughter)

That is a very interesting thing.

Now in Tennessee the great majority of Negroes in Chattanooga are voting, ---

MR. IRA LEWIS: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- they can take part in the life of the community. You get across this invisible line, you pop over into the State of Georgia, not one of them can vote. Now that is -- just is a plain fact. It's an interesting fact. Just, as I said, hands down -- (demonstrating) -- no enthusiasm at all; and a block further back everybody saying, "Hello, Mr. President," and so forth and so on. They are all right in Tennessee. They haven't -- people in Tennessee are just as well off as before. I don't know what they are kicking about in Georgia, which is my State, unfortunately.

And there is one thing -- there is just one thing in here -- (indicating the statement) -- the only thing I didn't agree with, and that is a thing which your Association, I think, could do something about. You talk about people in



other countries. We all know that they are very different from Americans in every way. You can't, for example -- I will give you one example -- something has got to be done about it in time.

Last year I went to a place called Gambia in Africa, at the mouth of the Gambia River. Bathurst is the capital. I think there are about three million inhabitants, of whom one hundred and fifty are white. And it's the most horrible thing I have ever seen in my life. I was there twice. The natives are five thousand years back of us. Disease is rampant, absolutely. It's a terrible place for disease.

And I looked it up, with a little study, and I got to the point of view that for every -- the British have been there for two hundred years -- for every dollar that the British have put into Gambia, they have taken out ten. It's just plain exploitation of those people. There is no education whatsoever. A few missionaries. With all due deference to the missionaries, if they wouldn't try to live in the best houses in town, they would be better off. (laughter)

And then a very interesting thing. They had no religion except the old forms of voodooism, which were tribal and came down through the centuries. The one religion that is gaining today in Gambia and contiguous colonies is Mohammedanism. Now that -- people don't know about that here. Those people, of course, they are completely incapable of self-government. You have got to give them some education first. Then you have got to better their health and their economic



position.

The reason the Mohammedans are getting on so well is that the Mohammedan priest comes down to a village, and he has a few tools in his pocket. He has no money. And he goes and lives in a hut with some family. And the next morning he gets a stool and starts his trade, and -- Oh -- he makes little silver ornaments or something like that -- some little hand trade. And pretty soon the children gather around him, and he talks to them. Pretty soon one or two grown-ups gather around him. Well, in the course of six months he has got a Mohammedan church. And he hasn't got any missionary society back home that pays him a salary. He makes his own way with his little trade. And the result is that Mohammedanism is gaining all through Africa at the present time. The Christian religion is not. He is a practical fellow. The missionary is not -- most of them. (laughter)

Now the agriculture there, it is perfectly pitiful. The one main asset is peanuts, and they -- they grow a lot of peanuts, the natives do. How do they grow them? They have been growing them now for -- I don't know, what? -- for years, and they still use a pointed stick. Nobody ever saw a plow in Gambia. The British have never done a thing about it. The only road out of Bathurst, the capital, we built out to the airport. The rest of the travel is up the Gambia River, but not back into the country at all, only right by the river.

Now, as I say, we have got to realize that a country like Gambia -- and there are a lot of them down there -- they



have -- the people there, who are in the overwhelming majority, they have no possibility of self-government for a long time. But we have got to move, the way we did in the Philippines, to teach them self-government. They have got -- that means education, it means sanitation, it means all those things. And that would be just as good for every white American to know as every colored American; but we don't know.

Now, because of your traditional, historic -- way back -- association, it would be a perfectly grand thing if your Association could send two or three people out there, as a committee, to write stories about what is needed.

I am taking up with (Prime Minister Winston) Churchill at the present time -- he doesn't see the point yet -- I think he will -- (laughter) -- the general thought that the United Nations ought to have an inspection committee of all these colonies that are way, way down the line, that are not ready to have anything to say yet because the owning country has given them no facilities.

And if we sent -- sent a committee from the United Nations, and I used the example of Gambia, to go down to Gambia, "If you Britishers don't come up to scratch -- toe the mark -- then we will let all the world know."

Well, Churchill doesn't like that idea. And his comeback was, "All right, the United Nations will send an inspection committee to your own South in America." (laughter)

He thought he had me.

I said, "Winston, that's all right with me. Go



ahead and do it. Tell the world. But -- what you people were talking about -- we call it freedom of the press, and you also call it 'pitiless publicity' -- you can right a lot of wrongs with 'pitiless publicity.'"

It would be a grand thing. I wouldn't mind if we had a committee of the United Nations come here and make a report on us. Why not?

Q. (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We have got some things to be ashamed of, and other things that are not as bad as they are painted. It wouldn't hurt at all -- bring it all out.

Q. That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: So, I will -- I think if your -- if your Association could do something like that, to teach us a little bit more about the world.

You take -- well, you take two countries that I was close to this last trip -- Abyssinia and Iran. Well, both -- both are absolutely pathetic, from our point of view. They are almost starving. No sanitation. There is nothing. Yet they are fine people.

The King of Ethiopia -- Emperor of Ethiopia, his son-in-law came over a little while ago.

And I said, "Where do you come from?"

"Oh," he said, "the Emperor -- direct descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba." (laughter)

That's all right. Awfully proud people. And they have got lots of capacity for the future, but they haven't



got anything now, no education, no facilities -- coming along.

Same way in Iran, what we used to call Persia. They come of a very ancient -- really a very wonderful civilization. But half of one percent of the people own all the land. Ninety-nine-and-one-half percent of the people up there are out on the land. They can't own anything. They are allowed to keep one quarter of what they grow.

Well, that's worth something to Georgia. (laughter)

So it has been good to see you, and if you will arrange with Steve (Early) about the next press conference, and also a little later on we will work out about something -- this summer or this fall -- for the whole Association.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Good-bye.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #934  
Executive Office of the President  
February 8, 1944 -- 4.12 P.M., E.W.T.

(Mr. Early asked this reporter to tell the President the number of this press conference, which was done)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) We'll have a celebration when we get to a thousand.

MR. EARLY: That's right. I thought you might want a vote on whether we continue them or not.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you want me to bring that up? All right.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: This is not my news, it's Steve's and Jack's. The -- I think it should be off the record too. This is press conference number 934, ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and I am inclined to think that the Washington Post and New York Times, having raised the question, that the White House Correspondents' Association ought to take a vote whether they want any more or not. I will abide by it. Of course, I always do abide by an unrestricted vote, such as they always have in the White House Correspondents' Association. (laughter)

Q. Do we have to "stand up and be counted," Mr. President? (much laughter)



THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir. And worse than that, it has got to be published. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- having been in that organization, I want to say now that they like to vote, but they only -- somebody always has to give them the refreshments before they will vote right. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's right, too. Well ---

MR. GODWIN: (adding) That's off the record too, of course.

THE PRESIDENT: Well -- (more laughter) -- that's the prerogative of the president of the Association -- not this President, the other president. (continued laughter)

I have been digging around trying to find things. The only thing Steve suggested was that I had signed today the Proclamation to put into effect the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

(reading): ".....do hereby proclaim and make known that the annual quota for Chinese effective for the remainder of the fiscal year, and for each fiscal year thereafter, has been determined in accordance with the law to be, and shall be, 105."

Somebody will probably ask me about Finland, and I think that it has been covered by the Secretary of State in -- what was it?--the Star? ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) A.P.



THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I have forgotten.  
A.P. is right. It's all right! (laughter)

Q. (Douglas Cornell, A.P.) Thank you, Mr. President. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there are two weird stories being widely carried today. One is that there is to be no campaign, the elections are going to be put off a year ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) How?

Q. Well, I don't know. That is what I want you to tell me. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you see, you've come to the wrong place, because -- Gosh -- all these people 'round town can't have read the Constitution. Unfortunately, I have.

Q. The second one is that there is to be a Republican and Democratic ticket ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Hmm.

Q. (continuing) --- giving you a Republican vice president who will succeed you as soon as the war is over.

THE PRESIDENT: Hmm. (laughter) That -- that story, Jim (Wright), is hoary with age.

Q. (interjecting) What?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It was suggested over a year ago.

Q. Mr. President, I see that there isn't as much reticence as I had suspected about asking political questions, but in view of the fact that Mr. Wallace has been touring around the country making what some people regard as



political speeches, there is quite a lot of interest in what you think about the Democratic candidacy for President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, those people -- I think the only thing to do would be for me to go out and make a speech -- of course, all this criticism about Henry Wallace ---

Q. (interposing) Louder. Can't hear you.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- (noise) -- to read the Sermon on the Mount. Now you can take a vote on that. Is that political or not? Some people say Yes.

Q. Well, Mr. President, in that connection -- (laughter) -- would you accept a fourth term nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is one of "them" things that I will have to go back to the usual old story which is the killer of stories: there is no news on that today. (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: Well, Mr. President, I am confused by our conversation. When did we stop ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) May, so is everybody else -- (more laughter) -- so it's all right. You are not alone on it.

MAY CRAIG: When did we stop asking political questions?

THE PRESIDENT: It never stopped. Why, I love to have them asked. I don't mind. I think the answer is perfectly all right, too.

MR. GODWIN: Would you like to know how there could be some news on that question? (laughter)



THE PRESIDENT: That would take a little course of private instruction.

Q. Mr. President, the new tax bill is now before you. Could you say anything about it at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, actually and physically I don't think it is. If it has come to the White House, it went right off to the -- I suppose -- I suppose to the Director of the Budget and the Treasury, for comment. And I haven't -- I haven't seen it. I have had three or four letters on it, pro and con; but I haven't spent five minutes on the thing so far. I suppose, probably, I ought to get the comments or recommendations back in -- what is it? -- two or three days, and I will probably work on it, one way or the other, over the weekend. I really haven't made up my mind, because I don't know anything about it yet.

Q. Mr. President, do you contemplate sending a Message to Congress in relation to the tax bill?

THE PRESIDENT: In relation to what? The tax bill?

Q. In relation to the tax bill, do you contemplate

---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That depends on what I do with it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: (picking up a dagger about a foot long) Do you want to see a real one?



MR. GODWIN: Where did you get that?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the latest commando knife.

MR. GODWIN: That's one of ours?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it's the British type, but we have copied it. Isn't that lovely balance? It's the kind you can throw.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #935

Executive Office of the President

February 11, 1944 -- 10.58 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (unable to find his glasses) No glasses to look at you. Came over without them. Don't know what I'll do.

Q. Most of us are here, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: However, I have got the handsome dean to look at, so it's all right. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Yes. Handsome! I haven't been able to shave today. Couldn't find any steel. Can I get a priority? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Cream. Imagine everybody shaving with cream.

MR. GODWIN: That's nice.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got a blessed thing today. Steve has been running around all morning. Can't find anything.

Q. Maybe we can think of something.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Maybe we can think of something.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I doubt it. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve and I have been going through everything this morning and can't find any news at all.

The most important news in the papers is the -- is the capture of the Huon peninsula in New Guinea, the Australians moving up from the southeast and the American forces



coming down from the northeast and joining hands. Terribly tough country -- taken a long time -- but it means that that particular strip of coast in the northeastern corner of New Guinea is now clear.

I don't think I know of anything else.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, are you familiar with Senator (Claude) Pepper's proposal in connection with the subsidy bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: You don't know? It's to let the Little Steel formula sag a little so that wages could go up, if subsidies are defeated. Are you familiar with that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Never heard of it.

Q. Mr. President, there has been a good deal of interest created by the Petroleum Reserves Corporation's plan for a pipeline in Saudi Arabia. There is a report this morning that there were discussions at Teheran and Cairo on the possibility of Anglo-American-Russian agreement on marketing areas for oil.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. That's a shot in the dark. Not true.

Q. It isn't true either, then, sir, that a British mission will be coming here to discuss that point?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q. Anything you could tell us, Mr. President, about a revision of our policy toward the French National Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Never heard of one.



Q. It is said to be under review, I understand.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think so.

Q. There has been no revision, Mr. President, of that policy?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. There has been no revision of that policy?

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing that is being -- being discussed isn't the French National Committee. It's what to do, in case we get into France, with the government behind the lines. That's a different thing.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you could tell us this morning about the situation in Italy, particularly regarding the (Anzio-Nettuno) beachhead?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything that you haven't all got. The -- of course, it's -- it's a very tense situation, and very heavy fighting. I think we should realize the fact that we still have, on the whole, control of the sea, except, of course, subject to bombing attacks, and also control of the air. And on both of them we are praying for good weather. That seems to be quite a factor.

MR. GODWIN: As I -- as I understand it, sir, we went in with good weather and the weather got bad on us, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- isn't that about the size of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, may I ask one more question on



oil? The impression was created here that you were quite interested in the arrangements for that oil pipeline. There has been some criticism from certain Congressional sources. Some of those sources were the same that raised the point -- after that certain trip by the five world-touring Senators -- that American resources were being dissipated while Middle Eastern oil resources were preserved intact. Have you any comment on the fact that these same people are now criticising the Middle Eastern oil ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am not going to talk about any persons, but of course you have to think a little of the time-table. When one of the gentlemen who went round the world came back, he did talk about -- a good many months ago -- I have forgotten -- what? -- four or five months ago -- about not using enough Middle Eastern oil. But, as we all know, at that time he was speaking about conditions where the oil from the Persian Gulf had to go around the Cape of Good Hope, and of course at that time we were in the process of getting more oil up through the Suez Canal.

Then, on the other question, the question of dissipation of American oil, we -- I have been talking about it for a couple of years -- we are depleting our oil reserves; we have been. Some people say there's 15 or 20 years oil left at the present rate. Some people say it's 20, 25 or 30 years. But we have a fairly good assurance from the scientists that we haven't got an unlimited supply of oil. Everybody knows that.

That cannot, unfortunately, be made a political



issue. Might be called an act of God -- just so much oil in the ground, and we are taking it out at such and such a rate.

And, of course, some of us are thinking about what will happen in this country if we haven't got any places on the outside to bring it in. That's all. That's the long and short of it. We do need supplies from the outside for this war, if it keeps on going, and for the future.

And I don't think that one can get much of a political issue on those facts.

Q. Mr. President, would you approve of lowering the age for WACs, in order to promote enlistment? To lower the wave -- age -- (laughter) -- limits for WACs to 18, say? Do you think -- would you approve of that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never thought about it.

Q. Well, they say that women are as mature as men at 18, and some say they are even more so; so if boys can go in, couldn't the women?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are getting into the field of higher philosophy. (laughter)

Q. Would you?

THE PRESIDENT: I really don't know. I never thought of it at all. I don't sufficiently know what the conditions are.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #936  
Executive Office of the President  
February 15, 1944 -- 4.06 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. GODWIN: See that cartoon? (by Berryman, in today's Evening Star)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- grand.

MR. GODWIN: Gives you a ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Well, ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- makes you smile, does it?

THE PRESIDENT: His batting average is fair.

MR. GODWIN: Fair.

THE PRESIDENT: I always have to use the understatement. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a letter from the Postmaster General (Frank Walker) that he has signed today an order for the restoration of civil mail service between the United States and Sicily, Sardinia, and the following ten provinces of Italy -- Bari, Brindisi -- I don't know if I can pronounce all these -- Catanzaro, Cosenza, Lecce, Matera, Potenza, Reggio Calabria, Salerno and Tarranto.

The service is restricted to postcards, and unregistered letters of a purely personal nature not exceeding 40 grams, or two ounces in weight. Financial, business, or commercial correspondence will not be permitted; nor will air



mail, parcel post, insurance or money order services be available at this time.

The United Kingdom is simultaneously resuming mail service to and from the same areas.

I think that will help a great many, probably hundreds of thousands of people in this country -- and over there -- who for many, many months have been unable to communicate with relatives that they have got back there in Sicily and southern Italy. This will enable them to communicate with their families -- so that their families will get some news of them.

Then, I was -- I was reading in the afternoon paper about the shelling of Cassino Abbey by our (Flying) Fortresses. It is very well explained in the story -- (indicating the Evening Star's story by Lynn Heinzerling, Associated Press War Correspondent) -- that the reason it was shelled was because it was being used by the Germans to shell us. It was a German strong point -- had artillery and everything else up there in the Abbey.

But I thought it might interest you to -- no particular reason now -- the time seems to have come -- a couple of orders that were issued last December (29th) in regard to historical monuments. This is by the commander-in-chief, as he was in Italy at that time, General Eisenhower.

(reading): "Today -----

I think Steve (Early) has got copies of these for you outside. I think it's quite interesting.



(continuing reading): "Today we are fighting in a country which has contributed a great deal to our cultural inheritance, a country rich in monuments which by their creation helped and now in their old age illustrate the growth of the civilization which is ours. We are bound to respect those monuments so far as war allows.

"If we have to choose between destroying a famous building and sacrificing our own men, then our men's lives count infinitely more and the buildings must go. But the choice is not always so clear-cut as that. In many cases the monuments can be spared without any detriment to operational needs. Nothing can stand against the argument of military necessity. That is an accepted principle. But the phrase "military necessity" is sometimes used where it would be more truthful to speak of military convenience or even of personal convenience. I do not want it to cloak slackness or indifference.

"It is a responsibility of higher commanders to determine through A.M.G. Officers the locations of historical monuments whether they be immediately ahead of our front lines or in areas occupied by us. This information passed to lower echelons through normal channels places the responsibility on all Commanders of complying with the spirit of this letter."

And the other one was by (Lieutenant General) W. B. Smith, who was his Chief of Staff.

(reading): "Historic Monuments. Buildings.

"A. No building listed in the sections "Works of



Art" in the "Zone Hand-Books" of Italy -- which every Commander has -- issued by the Political Warfare Executive to all Allied Military Government Officers will be used for military purposes without the explicit permission of the Allied Commander-in-Chief or of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, 15th Army Group in each individual case.

"B. Commanders concerned are authorized, as a further measure of security, to close and put out of bounds for troops any of the buildings listed in AMG "Zone Hand-Book" that they deem necessary. Notices to that effect will be affixed to the buildings, and guards provided to enforce them if necessary.

"C. Allied Military Government officers are prepared to furnish Commanders with a list of historical buildings other than those listed in the AMG "Zone Hand-Book." These buildings are of secondary importance and may be used for military purposes when deemed necessary. Commanders are reminded that buildings containing art collections, scientific objects, or those which when used would offend the religious susceptibilities of the people, should not be occupied when alternative accommodations are available.

"2. Looting, Wanton Damage and Sacrilege.

"The prevention of looting, wanton damage and sacrilege of buildings is a command responsibility. The seriousness of such an offense will be explained to all Allied personnel."

Those went out at the beginning of the invasion,



last December.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q. Mr. President, have you decided whether you will sign the tax bill or not?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing yet.

Q. Mr. President, a substantial number of Members of Congress from the Western States, both parties, sent you a resolution requesting some very sweeping changes in the War Relocation Authority -- this Japanese resettlement program. There have also been some suggestions from time to time that the W.R.A. might be put under the Secretary of the Interior, and some personnel changes. Nothing seems to have happened. Some of these Members of Congress are wondering what the response is to their petition or resolution. Can you comment on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember it. I may have got it. Probably referred to the -- I don't know, what? -- Interior or War.

Q. Could you comment on the suggestion that the W.R.A. may be put under the Secretary of the Interior?

THE PRESIDENT: I had better not. I haven't got it, so far as I know. I may have had it, and may have referred it. You would have to check.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us anything about



your conference with Donald Nelson today?

THE PRESIDENT: With who?

Q. Donald Nelson?

THE PRESIDENT: Donald Nelson?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I see him from time to time.

There wasn't any news in it.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you could say about the importance of Finland getting out of the war before it's too late?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on Argentina's proposal for a customs union in Latin America?

THE PRESIDENT: You would have to ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, there seems to be a very sizeable trial balloon being floated by some Democrats, who are variously described as influential young Democrats or conservative Democrats, suggesting that they want a new face and a new name on the -- for the second place on the ticket in 1944. I wondered if you happened to be among those young and influential, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Never heard of it.

Q. (continuing) --- or conservative? (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, last Friday morning a story showed up about our printing some currency, some for use in France after the invasion. Is there anything that might be



said about the imminency of such use, or what the possibilities of going ahead in Europe soon ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I shall leave the timing question out. I think the best way to put it is that for a long, long time we have been printing currency for many nations in Europe. Some of them have been occupied since the currency was printed. Others are being occupied. Still others will be occupied. And that list of countries that will be occupied is quite long, and therefore there will be all kinds of currencies. That is a simple -- a -- a simple operation, which I hope will be fully justified by the amount of currency for those nations which we are printing.

Q. Are we printing any German currency, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

(laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #937  
Executive Office of the President  
February 18, 1944 -- 10.59 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Good morning, May.

MAY CRAIG: Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: There's the "big boy." I was just going to have May sit in your place, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Pardon me?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- so you just got here in time.

MR. GODWIN: I know it. I only got my coat off -- you ought to join one of those rushes some time.

MAY CRAIG: It wasn't so bad today.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MAY CRAIG: Sometimes it's bad.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have here on my desk -- I just got it yesterday morning -- the release of the Report on War and Post-war Adjustment Policies, for release in regular editions of Saturday morning papers. And I hope that -- somebody suggested, lest there be any misunderstanding regarding the release time -- please make it clear that everything that I say concerning the report and its contents must be held for publication when the report is released, which is tomorrow morning, and nothing is to be printed in advance of the release.



The -- there are five double-spaced pages of a letter to Mr. (James F.) Byrnes, signed by Mr. (Bernard) Baruch and Mr. (John M.) Hancock -- (holding it up) -- that is that part, and you can see from the size of it how much work you have got to do. (much laughter) And Steve will have it for you at the end of the conference.

Now I wouldn't write any stories -- try to -- until you have gone to a party to which you have all been invited. Mr. Baruch and Mr. Hancock will hold a seminar on the report at 2.30 this afternoon, in room 323 of the Washington Building, 15th and New York Avenue. I will repeat it again, so you will find the right place. Room 323, Washington Building, 15th Street and New York Avenue, 2.30.

I don't think I have got anything else, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Nothing, sir.

Q. Have you had ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, Harry Slattery ---  
(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q. Have you had any late reports on the situation at Truk?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Mr. President, the Japs say we have gone ashore there.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, Harry Slattery testified before a Senate committee Tuesday or Wednesday, that last Thursday he



was called to the White House and asked to resign as head of R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Administration). Can you tell us the circumstances?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen him in any way, or heard from him ---

Q. (interposing) Did you ask ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- nor any message to him.

Q. No message to him.

Q. Mr. President, have you had a chance to read the (War and Post-war Adjustment Policies) report, so you can say whether you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I tell you the honest truth, I am about half-way through, that's all.

Q. Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, may I -- if I might revert to Harry Slattery a minute, are you aware of a controversy going on about him and the R.E.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: There was in the R.E.A., but as I remember it -- this is off-hand recollection -- there was some controversy last -- last summer.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes sir, quite a controversy.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I haven't heard anything about it for months.

MR. GODWIN: The reason for asking is that its -- its evident purpose -- definite aim is to involve you and the



White House in the controversy.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have a good deal of trouble doing that. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your meetings this week with Mr. (Donald) Nelson and Mr. (Charles E.) Wilson (both of W.P.B.)?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't seen them for a long time. And Mr. Wilson has just come back from a fishing trip in the Florida Keys, and pleaded with me to go down because the fish are running very well. Very few human beings down there, and the fish have increased.

Q. Are you going, sir? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's good stuff.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, is there anything to be said about the status of the tax bill, or the subsidy bill at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: I am sending it up at 12 o'clock, the subsidy bill, and I can't tell you what the action would be because I don't think it's courteous to Congress to -- (laughter) -- say anything about that for news before they get the Message. (more laughter)

Q. What about taxes, sir -- the tax bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Taxes will go up Monday or Tuesday.  
(more laughter)

Q. Don't you want to tell us what the action there



will be?

THE PRESIDENT: That will be discourteous to the Congress. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports that Leo Crowley is trying to step out as Alien Property Custodian. Have you given any consideration to that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been on the card for a long time.

Q. Have you decided on a successor, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, sir.

Q. Sir, is there any news on the Finnish situation you could tell us about?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. To go back to Crowley, sir, will he continue as F.E.A. (Foreign Economic Administration) Administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. That has not been under discussion. Oh -- F.E.A. Administrator? Oh sure, that is his main job. I thought you were talking about F.D.I.C.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That hasn't been discussed, but the Alien Property one has.

Q. Mr. President, the Vice President says you will be re-elected President in 1944. Do you think he is a very good prophet? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: At it again!

MR. GODWIN: At it again.

THE PRESIDENT: At it again! (more laughter)



Q. He is not so sure of himself, Mr. President.

(more laughter)

Q. Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Keep on going. It's all right. (more laughter) It's -- it's good for a laugh any time. (continued laughter)

Q. Mr. President, we didn't quite understand your reference. Who is at it again?

THE PRESIDENT: You fellows. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, you have before you the (Ross T.) McIntire board report about draft requirements?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it's right here -- (indicating his work-basket).

Q. Anything coming soon on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think it's an excellent report, which received very little attention -- not nearly enough. It's quite -- quite a fundamental report. It's worth reading.

Q. When we -- we -- (laughter) -- when may we have the pleasure of reading it?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't you had it yet?

Q. No, sir.

Q. No, sir.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) No.

Q. We have been asking for it.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know.

MR. EARLY: It hasn't been released, sir.



THE PRESIDENT: Why, let me read it, and see if there's anything in it. You are all so young, and it's a medical report. (laughter) I don't know if you are old enough. (more laughter) I will get it for you just as soon as I can.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, sir.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #938  
Executive Office of the President  
February 22, 1944 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. GODWIN: Good evening.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: You look on the inside of that. (a pamphlet about syrup and testimonials) (Mr. Hassett was promoted last Saturday to Secretary to the President, and this pamphlet printed a testimonial by him) They work fast. Don't show it to him.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is he?

MR. GODWIN: I don't believe he's here.

THE PRESIDENT: Show it to him. I think it's grand. Doesn't take them long.

MR. GODWIN: They work fast.

THE PRESIDENT: I notice it isn't dated either.

MR. GODWIN: No, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early, reading it) Isn't that a joy?

MR. EARLY: It is.

THE PRESIDENT: Fast worker.

MR. EARLY: Yes, but what a drop it is from what it used to be -- the syrup. Remember, Earl?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, I remember.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have very much today.



The -- I asked for some data and suggestions on the Marshall Islands and the Truk activities. I think it is worth calling, first of all, attention to the fact that we are learning as we go along. A great deal of this last operation in the Marshalls showed the most amazing cooperation -- I get word of that from all sources -- in the different arms of the services who were engaged in it. We did the Marshall action without the loss of a single ship. And at Truk, so far as we know -- we haven't had the latest reports, and of course it was an air action -- we did that without the loss of a ship, but we did have one ship torpedoed and she is on her way to be repaired.

And the other thing that I think could be called attention to is the phase of the operations that have been appearing almost every day in the communiques, and that is the number of Jap barges that we are getting. Those Jap barges are all through the islands, all the way down as far as Guadalcanal. And the toll that we have taken, if you add them up, is very large; probably over a thousand barges in the last year. And each one of those barges has been used for transportation by the Japanese, including transportation of a very large number of men from one island to the other; and with the destruction of barges, the toll among the Japanese officers and men on board has been undoubtedly very high, not including the naval personnel that are running the barges. And I suppose on an average they have some ten to twenty Japanese officers and men to the barge, not counting the soldiers



that they are carrying.

But it all adds up to the fact that it has been suggested that the Japanese have been taking a much heavier -- have been getting a much heavier toll and loss of life than would appear on the surface. As somebody suggested, the present operations in that region must be -- using understatement -- rather painful to the Japanese.

And, of course, the further we go into Japanese island territory, it means that the Japanese have got to develop new plans of transportation, new plans of supplies which we hope will be even more damaging to the enemy.

I don't think there's anything else.

Oh, there is one thing that I thought I might mention, because I have been getting a number of letters on it, and suggestions. That relates to the necessary -- necessary from the military point of view -- bombing of certain historic buildings, like the monastery (Benedictine Abbey) of Monte Cassino, which we had to do because the Germans were in it and were using it as a strong point to fire down on our troops that were trying to take the village of Monte Cassino, which is directly underneath -- almost throw a stone and hit it. And I suppose everybody in this country and most parts of the world feel terribly that a really historic building should have been so badly damaged.

Well, suggestions have come that we should start a subscription in this country to rebuild Monte Cassino. But, of course, the trouble is that before the war gets over



there will be a good many other historic monuments that are hit, ecclesiastical and otherwise.

And I have had other suggestions along a somewhat different line, and that is at the end of the war, where this destruction and damage has been in the first instance caused by the German occupation of these buildings, that at the end of the war the United Nations should unite and acquire sufficient labor and materials from Germany and let them do the repairing. Well, the thing is being discussed. There is -- no -- no definite plan has been agreed on.

Those are two of the several methods that have been suggested. I think the latter should be given very serious consideration by all of us. Make the Germans repair the damage (for) which they and they alone were responsible.

Q. Would that apply, sir, only to historic monuments?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Historic and ecclesiastical.

Q. Not general reconstruction work?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Not general reconstruction?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. That's a different subject.

Q. Mr. President, I think Churchill's statement today, that there can be no assurance of victory this year in Europe, comes as somewhat of a surprise to many people in America. Is there anything you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Just what I have been saying for a couple of years.



Q. Doesn't necessarily mean any slowing up of plans, or anything of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not a bit. I wish people in this country would sometimes listen to what is said out loud by responsible sources. It is perfectly true what you say, Jim (Wright), that it might be a surprise to people in this country, but it isn't new.

Q. I presume it's that -- the basis of the surprise comes from Eisenhower's statement a few months ago, when he did predict victory this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I often wonder just what he did said -- say.

Q. Mr. President, yesterday in the Los Angeles area there were fifty-five plants engaged directly in war production slowed down because of a strike of employees of the municipal power bureau. The Army and Navy and War Production Board have been getting reports from field representatives, and there are indications they have been referred to you, and have been suggesting that you have been urged to order somebody to take over the Los Angeles power bureau.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you a secret, but you can't use it -- it's off the record -- what you say is the first intimation that I have had of this. (laughter)

Q. (interjecting) I gathered that previously, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I have to display my complete ignorance, but don't say so. (more laughter)

Q. May I ask one more question?



THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Is there any precedent or principle concerning having the Army or Navy take over a municipal operation of that sort? I am told the W.P.B. considers this -- War Labor Board considers this as not one of their "babies," because it does involve a municipal operation, a municipal function.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can only answer it in -- as a supposititious case. You remember about a year and a half ago ---

Q. (interjecting) I know that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- the operators of the New York subways threatened to go on strike. Well, suppose they had? Keep all the subways in New York closed? Obviously not. Well, the Mayor hadn't got any Army or Navy, or manpower, or anything else. I guess the Federal authorities would have to run the subways.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, back to Churchill's speech, he said that British policy was to adopt the Curzon line which had been recommended in 1920, and made some suggestions about giving Germany parts of Poland in compensation. Does that conform to our policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't had a chance yet to read the speech.

Q. What can you say about our policy for that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would rather read the speech first. That's all I have got to say about it.



Q. Mr. President, there was one other thing in that speech that I wonder if you could comment on, possibly, and that was Mr. Churchill's statement that this year, owing to elections in the United States, there might be a lot of hard things said about Great Britain.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I guess that's probably true. -  
(laughter)

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, yesterday ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not -- not -- not meant to be funny. It's true.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) It is.

Q. The Russian Ambassador (Andrei Gromyko) called on you yesterday, sir, and there were reports that he carried a message from -- communication from Marshal Stalin. Is there anything that you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, he did ---

Q. (continuing) Did that -- that communication have any basis ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- period.

Q. (continuing) --- or any connection with the Polish-Russian situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Nothing to do with it at all.

Q. Could you tell us, sir, the nature of the communication?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I get them very often. I get them both ways. I get them through Gromyko, and I get them through (Averell) Harriman.



Q. Was it good news, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Was it good news, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- he was asking a question, which I am now trying to find out about.

Q. Mr. President, returning to the Churchill speech once more -- (laughter) -- he said that the United States and the Soviet Union were sending missions to Tito. Is there anything you can tell us about our part in that?

THE PRESIDENT: Tito? (Quito)

Q. Tito, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Ecuador?

Q. No, the Yugoslav ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) The Yugoslav guerrilla.

Q. Tito.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that. Tito. No. You will have to ask the State Department. I don't know.

Q. Could you tell us, sir, where you are trying to find out that question from Mr. Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #939  
Executive Office of the President  
March 3, 1944 -- 10.58 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. M. SMITH: Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What's this I hear about an election? Is that true?

Q. Meet the president, Mr. President. (the President shook hands with Merriman Smith)

THE PRESIDENT: I hear that they haven't counted the ballots. (laughter)

MR. M. SMITH: They most certainly have.

MR. EARLY: How many?

Q. One. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Grand.

MR. M. SMITH: We established an electoral college this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Let the soldiers vote?

Q. That's right.

MR. M. SMITH: Well, we were thinking of it.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I was made very happy a few minutes ago to learn that Merriman Smith has been made the -- I said made -- (laughter) -- the president -- the chairman of the White House Correspondents' Association, with Mr. (J. A.) Fox as vice president. Steve told me that the votes haven't been counted yet, but they are both elected! (more laughter)  
Congratulations. It's all right.



MR. M. SMITH: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I rustled around and I don't think I have got anything at all, except a report from the Treasury Department yesterday afternoon on the figures -- final figures of the last War Loan, which I think were announced by Henry Morgenthau last night. Well, all that is necessary to say is it has been a tremendous success, and the people seem to be responding in increasing numbers to each War Loan Drive that we have, because we are going to have more, we all know that; but the people seem to understand that it is necessary to get this money to carry on the war. And the number of small bonds -- individual bonds went way over what it ever has been before -- goes to nearly, I think over 16 million -- 16 billion.

Q. Mr. President, have you had an opportunity to talk with Senator Barkley yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I believe he has been ill.

Q. Sir, would you give -- give us your reactions as to the new political situation in Argentina?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got enough on it to give you political reactions.

Q. Mr. President, can you say anything about developments in the Far East Asia theatre, in view of General Wedemeyer's being here the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They have been coming over -- General Wheeler has been here, and General -- I don't -- I can't think of his name ---

Q. (interjecting) Boatner.



Q. Boatner.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Boatner. Boatner, and now Wedemeyer. Of course, we are in very close touch with the British about the whole campaign. I don't think there is anything to add to that, except that the material for China is going over the "hump" in a very satisfactory way.

Q. Mr. President, can you comment on a resolution in the Foreign Relations Committee on the -- on the status of Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I don't think there is anything to say on it.

Q. Sir, is there anything you could tell us about the Finnish situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than what I read in the paper. We have nothing else.

Q. Sir, there also have been published reports that you have been giving personal attention in recent days to some sort of new understanding or agreement with the French Committee, in connection with the part they will play when we go into France. I wonder if you could say anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news. It is still under discussion. It has been going around to the State Department and War Department and the British and ourselves for the last -- Oh, what? -- two or three months. Still going around.

Q. Mr. President, are you familiar with the terms of the compromise that has been worked out, apparently by



the conferees, on the soldier vote issue?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I have read. I don't want to comment on it.

Q. As to structure?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got any news on it. I haven't seen the actual language of it. I do think it is -- I could say this -- of course the crux of the thing is as to whether our soldiers will be given a chance to vote under existing law, or under the new law -- any language.

Q. Well, does this, as you understand it, repeal the old law about registration and poll tax?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Can't go into any details except that -- which law will let the soldiers vote.

MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, do you -- have you got anything to say on oil? It seems to be pretty hot right now.

THE PRESIDENT: I heard of hot oil before. (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so, May. I think it's largely a question -- and, of course, you get all kinds of statistics and figures on it -- as to what the supply of oil for this nation is going to be twenty-five years from now. That is a question primarily of fact, and after you get all the facts from different angles, then there is the question of opinion. As I said before, I am worried about the future supply for this -- for this country. I am not just thinking of five years or ten years from now, I am thinking of fifty years from now.



Q. Mr. President, it is reported that Mr. Stettinius, Under Secretary, is going to London. What -- is he, or if so what is the purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I asked him a little while ago to go over there. There are quite a number of things easier to take up in person than with lengthy cables. And I think he will go sometime after Secretary Hull returns.

Q. Will he be accompanied by any staff, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. (interposing) Well, does that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) He will probably take two or three people with him, but it isn't a full dress conference affair.

Q. Well, is that in relation to the permanent committee that was established in London following the Moscow conference?

THE PRESIDENT: The permanent what?

Q. Permanent committee of the powers established in London following the Moscow conference? There was some ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is one of a dozen things, that's all -- only one of a dozen, and probably not at the top.

Q. Could you tell us what the top is?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There isn't any top. A whole lot of things to talk over. There isn't a headline in it.

Q. Mr. President, returning to the oil proposition, the Senate set up a committee composed of representatives of



several standing committees to consider this oil question. Does the construction of this pipeline (in Saudi Arabia) require any Congressional action?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. Probably -- probably, without much question. The Senate knows all the facts and everything else, sees things right -- absolutely open -- nothing secret about it.

Q. Well, I have heard questions in the Capitol as to where you would get the money if they didn't give it to you?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Ask them.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment on the outcome of the special election in the 21st District of New York City?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know anything about it until I read about it in the papers afterwards.

Q. Mr. President, there is a report in the morning papers that Britain, and the United States also, are cracking down on Turkey as a result of their failure to cooperate. Is it true that the United States has joined with Britain in cutting off economic aid to Turkey?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the State Department about that. I don't know within the last two or three weeks.

Q. Mr. President, a week or two ago you said you were trying to find the answer to a question that Marshal Stalin had addressed to you. I wondered if you had any luck



yet?

THE PRESIDENT: What was the question? (much laughter)  
What? (more laughter) What's it all about? (more laughter)

Q. You said you were looking up the answer to a question that Marshal Stalin asked you.

Q. That the Ambassador brought in.

Q. That the Russian Ambassador had delivered a Message from the Marshal.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that. Well, that is -- that is rather old, and it isn't settled yet, and that is as to what particular ships would go to the Russian navy from the Italian navy, and, if we didn't want to send those identical ships, what Britain and ourselves would send in lieu of them. That was all. And it has been about -- about half decided, that's all.

Q. Go to the Russian navy, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Go to the Russian navy, or aid?

THE PRESIDENT: Russian navy.

Q. Is there going to be a distribution of the Italian navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, we are in a war, and during a war we are going to run everything that floats for the benefit of the war.

Q. This is for war purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right. Afterwards -- we may do something after the war's over more permanent.



(laughter)

Q. Would those ships, sir, be manned by the Italians?

THE PRESIDENT: Depends on -- on the ships, and the circumstances. Some might, and some might not.

Q. And would those ships also include any now held in the Balearic Islands, which have not been released?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a different thing. That's a Spanish problem, and I don't know what's happened there lately, except that they are still talking about it.

Q. Does this exchange, sir, or this transfer, date back to your conferences with Marshal Stalin at Teheran?

THE PRESIDENT: They date back further than that. They date back to the surrender of Italy.

Q. Was the -- was the transfer arranged through the initiation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No transfer has been arranged.

Q. Well, what would you term it, sir, an assignment of Italian warships?

THE PRESIDENT: The whole point was this -- was this. Get this idea. A certain number of ships that came to the Allies as a result of the surrender, and in that surrender Russia was a part, you remember. Italy surrendered to Russia, Britain and ourselves, and we acquired certain munitions of war. In this case it happened to be ships. Well, out of the acquisition, either those or substitutes, we want to do the



thing in the logical way. Any aid that we can give to Russia out of it, that is what we are doing now, roughly on a -- what? -- a one-third basis, because there were three great nations involved. We are using some already, and the British are using some already, and the Russians will use either some of the Italian ships or the equivalent.

Q. Sir, you speak of -- of certain Italian vessels being acquired as a result of the surrender. Does that apply to the Italian fleet as a whole?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes, ---

Q. (interposing) Could you tell us what ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- the ones that we have got. We didn't get them all.

Q. Can you tell us roughly how many we did get, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you.

Q. Tonnage, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. In terms of tonnage either?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #940  
Executive Office of the President  
March 7, 1944 -- 4.07 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) I heard you got stuck in town the other day with the snow?

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: You couldn't get back home on account of the snow? (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: How did you know?

THE PRESIDENT: I know lots of things that go on.

MR. GODWIN: You have got a spy somewhere. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, I have -- and a lot of them. Some of them get even into the legislative correspondents' dinner. (more laughter) That's what comes of living in a city. That's what comes of living in a city that doesn't know snow when it sees it. Everything stops.

MR. GODWIN: Absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. M. SMITH: (new president of the White House Correspondents' Association) I gave your message to Fritz Kreisler (world famous violinist).

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

MR. SMITH: I thought he was going to cry, he was so moved.

THE PRESIDENT: Really?

MR. SMITH: He said you had enough on your mind



without sending him a message like that.

THE PRESIDENT: Great old boy. Is he pretty blind?

MR. SMITH: No.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't he?

MR. SMITH: He was looking around the room. His vision may be impaired, ---

MR. DONALDSON: (interposing) All in.

MR. SMITH: (continuing) --- but it seemed to be getting well.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I don't think I have much.

Instead of giving you a long report I will try to summarize it for you, a report from the Secretary of the Navy (Frank Knox) on the two years of operation by the United States Coast Guard, especially on what is called the port security end of their work. He calls attention to the fact that during the whole time, the Coast Guard has safeguarded the ports, harbors, vessels, and shore and waterfront establishments in four thousand miles of port areas, without a single important disaster during the whole period.

He calls attention to the fact that these ports are the points at which enemy sabotage could do the biggest damage. For instance, the blowing up of a munitions ship in New York harbor, or the wrecking of a major port would be as great a disaster to the war effort as the destruction of an airfield in the war theatre. Efficient operation of ports is necessary to get the men, the munitions, and the materials of war to



the fighting fronts.

And I want to just add one word on my own part, that I think the boys in the Coast Guard have done a magnificent job, and ought to get due credit for it.

I think that's all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us something about your talk yesterday with William Green on the I.L.O. (International Labor Organization)? There are stories this morning that you asked him to seek ways and means that would have to be worked out with the C.I.O. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It's just in the preliminary stage. We have got to have three -- four American representatives up there, two from Government, one from industry, and one from labor. And it is a problem as to how we are going to get one man representing labor to represent all of labor, when you have two labor organizations in labor itself. And they are merely having preliminary discussions on that.

Q. Mr. President, there have been some interesting and startling reactions from abroad to the story about the Russian fleet the other day. The Badoglio government sounded a note of alarm, and I wondered if you could say anything further on that problem?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I haven't got any more to be said. It is perfectly clear.

Q. Mr. President, Carroll Beedy of the -- Counsel for the House Agricultural Subcommittee, said that he would



ask you for the R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Administration) report, if Mr. (Jonathan) Daniels found that he could not properly ask you for it.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word about it. Isn't that rather an "iffy" question?

Q. No. He said he was going to ask you for it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we will have to cross that bridge when we come to that discussion.

MAY CRAIG: I didn't hear that.

THE PRESIDENT: Have to cross that bridge when we come to it, -- (laughter) ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- May. That doesn't help you at all, now you know what I said. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, the committee also indicated some interest in the political activities of Mr. Eugene Casey with -- inside the R.E.A., and I wondered if you wanted to talk to us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: He is around here. There he is.

Q. Maybe we can hear from him? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He is probably here about it for the same reason you are.

Q. I was here to get information, not give it.  
(more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, has the time come when you could give us any sort of picture of the agenda which Mr. Stettinius will take up when he gets to London?



THE PRESIDENT: Weren't you over there this morning?

Q. The State Department doesn't feel, sir, that they can discuss an agendum, and sometimes the White House does.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I did last time. I said there "ain't" no agendum, didn't I? I think so. I think I said he was going over with no agenda.

Q. Is there anything, sir, you can tell us about the situation in the Pacific, as a result of your conference with Admiral Nimitz yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I had a good two-hour talk with him. We covered, I was going to say every island, and some of the modern arts of war, and new techniques about reducing islands before landing.

MR. GODWIN: What was that -- technique of what?

THE PRESIDENT: Reducing islands before landing ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- by what we used to call the softening-up process.

Q. Mr. President, last week there was quite a long report, the A.P. I think saying that what was perhaps one of the greatest military training programs in history was beginning -- had been begun in China, and big supplies had reached there at various times, and American officers had begun their training, and I haven't seen anything of it since; and I wondered if there was something in that we didn't know about?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid it's out of date



really, as news.

You probably know that in northern India, quite a while ago, we undertook to train several Chinese divisions in Assam, and those troops are now in action in Burma. And on the Chinese side of the mountains, General Stilwell with the help of various officers of our Army are, in conjunction with the Chinese commanders, training quite a number of divisions in Yunnan, and that is still going on. Those are the two -- have been the two main centers: Assam on the western side, and Yunnan on the eastern side. It has been going on for several -- good many months.

Q. Is that Yunnan -- H-U-N-N-A-N, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Y. Y-U-N-N-A-N.

MR. EARLY: Y.

Q. Mr. President, from time to time the question of our relations with the French National Committee of Liberation comes up, and each inquiry at the State Department results in the statement that the problem is at the White House. Have there been any further developments in it that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I have to -- I have to give you the stock answer, there is no news on that today. I hope there will be soon.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #941  
Executive Office of the President  
March 10, 1944 -- 11.05 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Jonathan Daniels) Well! Congratulations!

MR. DANIELS: Thank you very much. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Can't say that to Gene (Casey) yet.  
(more laughter)

MR. DANIELS: No.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got a couple of things, which I won't take time to read -- copies outside. One relates to a joint Army and Navy agreement which I approved yesterday, regarding the participation of members of the armed services in political campaigns. It's practically the same -- is the same as under previous laws. I don't think there's a paragraph in the whole thing, and it isn't directed at any one person. And it's the same thing that we have always done. I don't think you can make a controversy out of it -- just read it.

And the other one is almost in the same category. Lew Douglas has resigned, or is resigning some time around the beginning of April, from his position as Deputy Administrator of the War Shipping Administration, and will remain on as a Deputy of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board and as Chairman of the Employment and Policy Committee.

And the low-down on it is off the record: it's on account of his health. He has been in this "burg" so long



that he has got a very serious sinus trouble, which is not a slam at Washington, D. C. You all know my feelings about the climate of the Capital of the United States -- (laughter) -- and I am right.

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you could tell us whether there is anything that Eire might do at the present time to aid the allied cause?

THE PRESIDENT: Good God, what an "if" question! (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: What?

Q. Well, may I put it another way around?

THE PRESIDENT: Try! (more laughter)

Q. There is a story from London this morning, saying that our Minister in Dublin has presented a note to the Irish government, asking them or appealing to them to close the Axis legations in Dublin.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have to ask the State Department about it, because I really couldn't give you a story.

Q. Mr. President, in your opinion, how complete has the destruction of Berlin been?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) God, we are getting a good collection of "iffy" questions today. (more laughter)

Q. No "if" in that one.

THE PRESIDENT: What? How do you know?

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) No "if" in ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) How do you know?



How can I tell? How can anybody tell about how much the destruction of Berlin is, except the regular things that are given out by the air force over there? I haven't seen anybody from Berlin for several months. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: There is no "if" in this question, but it's the question which is asked by ordinary newspaper readers, and the -- the wellknown man in the street: why do the air forces continue to bomb Berlin? The public seems to be -- the popular opinion is that there isn't any more Berlin. The folks want to know why?

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that up to the press to tell them?

MR. GODWIN: Pardon me?

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that up to the press to tell them? They never hesitate -- they don't see anybody from Berlin, but they never hesitate to give an opinion, do they?

MR. GODWIN: Who?

THE PRESIDENT: The press.

MR. GODWIN: The press?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course, the radio does too. I forgot the fact that we had radio here.

MR. GODWIN: That -- that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't -- I don't know at all what the amount is, except as to what we have read in the communiques, and as far as I know we have seen nobody out of Berlin who has been there recently.

I talked last night, for instance, with a very



delightful -- you oughtn't to use it, it's just between us -- a very delightful Swede was over here, a man named Mr. (Hugo) Cedergren; and he and his wife were sent over by the Swedish Red Cross to Germany to report on the treatment of American prisoners in Germany. And he was in Berlin, and his wife was in Berlin, during one of the bombings. Well, that was several months ago, and it was the latest personal version of what has happened in Berlin that I have had; but it was quite a while ago, I think three or four months. And all they could say was that the destruction was pretty bad at that time.

Well, for instance, the Swedish legation was burned -- bombed and burned. And there was one story which you -- I haven't got anybody's permission to -- to use, but I will tell you just off the record. In the Swedish legation, when the bombing came along, a couple of block-busters knocked down two buildings in this long row of buildings that were -- was the legation; and one of them landed on top of the roof and set fire to it. So everybody -- all the Swedes -- rushed to the roof to try to put it out with buckets, but it was quite beyond their control, but probably was still in the position where, if they had had one fire engine they could have stopped the fire.

Well, Gosh! -- along comes a fire engine and stops in the street directly opposite. So the Swedes rushed out and said, "For God's Sake, put out the fire on our top storey."

And the fire engine people said, "That's not our order. We are to put out a fire in the next block."



So they sat there while the Swedish legation burned.

Typical German story. (laughter)

But apparently the -- the air force on -- in England -- our day bombers -- are very well satisfied with the -- with the recent raids. I think they have done very well in hitting targets. But the mere fact that they have continued the raids up to the present time would lead me to believe that -- that there was some reason for doing it, and the reason was -- must have been decided on at a joint conference of the British air force and our air force.

Q. That latter is on the record again, is it not, sir?

MR. GODWIN: You are back on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can put that back on the record. I can't tell (about the raids).

Q. Wouldn't that be to engage the German air force? Wouldn't that be one of the purposes, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have no information.

Q. Mr. President, is there any probability that a request will go to Congress for additional taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better ask Mr. Morgenthau. He was up there, I think yesterday.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there has been considerable comment -- controversy or discussion of that one-third of the Italian fleet to the Russians. I suppose you have got up to date with some of it?



THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Have you anything to say about it now, any more information?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except to say that what I said was correct, and what Mr. Churchill said is correct, and you can't get any controversy out of that. And I suggest that you check back and see what I said, because quite a lot of people left out some key words.

Q. Were those key words "or the equivalent"?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right -- that's right.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, the A.P. is carrying a story today, and they say that as a result of continued study, military leaders have concluded that the best results will be had by keeping the Italian fleet intact in the Mediterranean. And the suggestion has been advanced from that point that the Italians then are -- rather the Russians would get the equivalent of their share -- as you said last Friday -- in British-American tonnage. And then comes the next proposition, that because of the United States's increased or better productive capacity, that the most would probably come from this country. Is there anything you might say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because obviously there, if I start to say anything about that, I am violating military secrets, because we don't say what ships and how many are going to this, that and the other place. I am precluded.

Q. Mr. President, will you comment on the action



of the Puerto Rican legislature voting for the removal of Governor Tugwell?

THE PRESIDENT: Did it?

Q. The lower house.

THE PRESIDENT: Did it?

Q. Yes, sir -- lower house.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you said legislature?

What was the vote in the other house?

Q. It was against the removal. (laughter) Will you comment on the action of the lower house?

THE PRESIDENT: No, of course not. (more laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a dirty trick, wasn't it?

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: A freshman back there.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. EARLY: That was a trick one.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #942  
Executive Office of the President  
March 14, 1944 -- 4.11 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. GODWIN: Got Bill to sit down at last.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Bill Hassett can sit down at last.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. About time. I know somebody else who has to sit down too at press conferences. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Old Ned.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything today.

Somebody -- I don't know if he's in the room -- asked if I would say something about the bombing of territory in Italy by both sides. Oh -- jotted down this -- (to Mr. Early): have you got this mimeographed?

MR. EARLY: Will be by the time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Steve will have it mimeographed.

(reading): "Everyone knows the Nazi record on religion. Both at home and abroad, Hitler and his followers have waged a ruthless war against the churches of all faiths.

"Now the German army has used the Holy City of Rome as a military center. No one could have been surprised by this -- it is only the latest of Hitler's many affronts to religion. It is a logical step in the Nazi policy of total war -- a policy which treats nothing as sacred.

"We on our side have made freedom of religion one



of the principles for which we are fighting this war. We have tried scrupulously -- often at considerable sacrifice -- to spare religious and cultural monuments, and we shall continue to do so."

So that's that.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there are newspaper stories connected with your possible action on manpower draft deferments, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- and so forth. Is there any -- anything from here on that?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't anything yet.

MR. GODWIN: I find -- may I continue?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: I find some of the newspaper stories -- I think you know, and our Army officers seem to know that the Army is asking for more and more younger men.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

MR. GODWIN: And that is a problem. Is there anything you can say on that particular phase of it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing that can be said is that it is perfectly true we need more and more younger men for the Army and Navy. At the same time, there is a very small percentage of men who are young, who are specialists and who are doing vital war work, who don't happen to be in uniform. We take them, in uniform, and re-assign them to their present work. Well, we don't want to do that if we can help it.



So the problem is to sift the two elements in the country. The first, re-comb -- we have done it three times, we are doing it again -- re-comb the Army and Navy lists to find out what the able-bodied younger men are doing, working in the Army and Navy, which is not as important as if they were at the front. That ought to yield a certain number of people again.

And the other thing is to prevent a stoppage of work -- take away key men from certain absolute essentials.

The best illustration I can give you of that is this. Two years ago, we were working feverishly to turn out rifles and small arms ammunition. Well, we had to have people who were skilled in turning that out -- a small proportion of the workers, of course, to direct the work. It may serve another need -- a good many new needs. Well, for example, making landing craft; and somebody has to supervise the making of landing craft. Some of them are young people who were skilled at that kind of work. We are relieving -- actually shutting down the work on a pretty good percentage of small arms ammunition and guns -- rifles. In other words, we -- we have reached the peak of necessity on that. We are slowing down on it. On the other hand, landing craft, we want to make a great many more than we are making at the present time. Therefore, a young man who is doing -- making shells or rifles, could be more usefully put to work in the Armed Forces, whereas a young man who is essential at turning out landing craft probably (could) be kept in that work. Degree of necessity.



MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on the proposed T.V.A. amendments which are now up before the Senate, or will be before the Senate on Thursday, and which Chairman (David E.) Lilienthal says will wreck T.V.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not familiar with it. I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, we understand that Bill Green has sent you a letter saying that the A. F. of L. insists upon representing labor solely?

THE PRESIDENT: Just got it six minutes ago.

Q. Is there anything you could say about that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that it hasn't been answered yet.

Q. Mr. President, going back to this reservoir of young men, is there a disposition now to look into the blanket-ing of young men in the farm industry more thoroughly than was the case before?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't -- I wouldn't single that out. The farm industry is just like any other essential industry. I don't think it's a fair thing to take that one in. Take them all in. They are all essential.

Q. Mr. President, along the same line, there seems to be a difference of opinion between the Truman Committee and the Army as to the extent to which consumer production could now be resumed.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?



Q. About consumer goods production -- the extent to which that could now be resumed. Would it be possible for you to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to give me a specific case. Much too broad a subject.

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) What, for instance?

Q. For instance, in the last Truman Committee report, the Committee suggested that in labor areas that were not tight, that consumer goods production could be resumed in those areas. The -- the report made further comment that the Army attitude seemed to be that such production should not be resumed, for the reason that the labor then would be transferred to the tight labor areas for further war production; and I wonder whether or not you would comment on it, on those --- on that general problem about consumer goods production at the present time?

THE PRESIDENT: That -- that still is -- is too general. I mean, I would like to have a specific case. Well, just for example, immediately your question brings in -- ought to include the -- something else besides labor, and that is materials.

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So that is a very important factor. You have an area in the country which is not a tight labor market. Of course, we could go to consumer goods in there, as far as labor goes; but how about -- how



about the materials? So right there, there's -- there's another part to the problem which is almost equally important. So you can't make a general reply to it, unless you have both the elements, labor and materials.

Now, for example, in one case that will occur to you -- agricultural implements. Well, we have now, because it's a very important thing, we have allocated a certain amount of steel, but I can't go up into some upstate county in New York where the labor situation is not very difficult and turn out agricultural machinery. I have got to have a plant to do it in. That probably will "throw me," if there is no plant to do it in a congested area. It's an awfully difficult subject. You have to do the best you can, being pulled three or four ways by necessity, or desirability.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on the recognition of the Badoglio government by Premier Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything on it at all. You will have to ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, anything you can give us on the Irish situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word.

Q. (adding) Latest action of the British?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word.

Q. Mr. President, has any decision been reached yet on the French Committee's status in France ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No, ---

Q. (continuing) --- metropolitan France?



THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- not yet.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #943  
Executive Office of the President  
March 17, 1944 -- 4.12 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig) Get ready to sit there. I haven't seen the "big boy" (Earl Godwin).

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Is he coming?

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him. (after a pause):  
Suppose I sit down and he comes?

MR. EARLY: Tell him to move over -- just like you used to. (laughter) (the President then gestured to her, and she sat down) (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: There you are.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Stay right there if he comes in.

MAY CRAIG: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I haven't got anything particular.

I think it would be a good thing if we could all say something about the I.L.O. (International Labor Organization) conference to be held in Philadelphia on the 20th of April. 34 countries are going to be represented. It's a very important meeting, because undoubtedly when we come to devise some ways and means of having a United Nations organization, the I.L.O. will be independent, as it was independent of the League of Nations, but would be normally and naturally affiliated with the new organization of the United Nations. So it is -- it



is a very important meeting. It's the first they have had for -- what? -- you will have to look it up -- three or four years I think, isn't it?

Q. Since 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: What? 1941.

Q. 1941.

Q. 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: And the -- the American delegates -- the Government -- have been appointed. The Government has two delegates and an alternate. Miss (Frances) Perkins, Secretary of Labor; and Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah who is Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. And largely because this thing has got -- the whole conference has got many international -- international relations phases to it, Mr. (Adolf) Berle is going on as the -- the substitute Government delegate. I expect to have, in the course of a few days, the announcement of the names of the delegate and substitute to represent the Employers. I haven't got the Labor delegates yet, but will shortly.

Q. Will there be one Labor delegate, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- Employer one, Labor one, and a substitute for each. I may say that it has been the practice, as I said before, that you can have more than one delegate but only one vote.

Q. Mr. President, is Russia on that list of 34 nations that will attend?



THE PRESIDENT: Don't know yet. That doesn't mean that they won't be there.

Q. How about Bolivia and Argentina, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: About what?

Q. Bolivia and Argentina?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Better ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, is Finland on the list?

THE PRESIDENT: That I couldn't tell you.

Q. Who makes recommendations for the Labor delegates?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Who makes recommendations for the Labor delegates?

THE PRESIDENT: I think under the (I.L.O.) constitution, I do.

Q. Mr. President, the King of Sweden has sent a message to Finland, which apparently is somewhat along the same lines as the statement that you issued yesterday, at least in spirit. I wonder if you would care to make any comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it would be proper.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us why Dr. Isaiah Bowman was put on the Stettinius delegation going to London?

THE PRESIDENT: Because he knows more about geography than everybody in this room, including myself, all put together.

Q. Does that mean, sir, they are going to talk territorial questions in London?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but they might talk about



bananas. (laughter) And he knows where bananas grow.

Q. Might --- (more laughter interrupting)

Q. Mr. President, not long ago there was a pamphlet that has been described as a peace pamphlet dropped by the Allies over Germany, and there have been texts of that pamphlet available in London, but the censorship has refused publication of any portion of it. Do you know anything about that pamphlet, or why it has been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, but I have seen quite a number. I know -- I don't know if it's this one, but months ago -- all through last year -- they sent me their literature. I wouldn't call it a pamphlet, I would call it literature which is dropped over Germany, and they seemed all right to me. Now what this one is, I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, is there any significance in the fact that Donald Nelson and McNutt were at the Cabinet meeting today?

THE PRESIDENT: They are always there.

Q. McNutt and ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

Q. Always?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes -- Oh Yes. The Cabinet meeting is now quite regularly attended by, I think it's 16 or 17 people. Phil Fleming's there -- I think -- I am thinking now outside of Cabinet -- Phil Fleming's there, Jack Blandford, Donald Nelson -- Oh -- our friend the Judge ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Leo Crowley.



THE PRESIDENT: Leo Crowley, Jimmy Byrnes, Fred Vinson, Paul McNutt. I think that covers it.

MR. EARLY: Mr. Wallace.

THE PRESIDENT: What? And the Vice President.

(laughter)

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That has been going on -- that is hoary with age.

Q. Mr. President, in view of the color scheme today (green for St. Patrick's Day), is there anything you can say about the Irish question? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, sometimes when people talk about the Irish question they think in terms of controversy, but there is one thing that the Irish in this country are noted for, and that is that they are not controversial. (more laughter) They are in with all the rest of us.

Q. Mr. President, are you approaching a decision on the Soldiers' Vote bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. In fact, I haven't seen -- even seen the telegrams. I thought that if there are enough in, that Steve ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Should all be rounded up Monday.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: All rounded up Monday.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. They will all be



rounded up. The first bunch will be rounded up for Monday morning papers.

MR. EARLY: If you want it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think that's a good idea.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Nothing in the papers Monday morning, anyway. (laughter)

Q. (continuing) --- the Secretary of State announced at Noon that -- disclosed at Noon that the Russian recognition of the Badoglio government was accomplished without consultation with this Government. Could you tell us anything for guidance as to what the impact of that might be on the whole ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) This is a memo. (reading): "To Mr. Early. Secretary Hull, when asked a direct question at his conference this morning, if the Department had been informed of Russian recognition of the Badoglio government, replied in the negative, and said that the Russians informed us on the same day that the Italians made the announcement of recognition."

So, you see, I am saying just what he did. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Could you tell us, sir, what might be the impact of that on the entire -- general international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think there's any impact. I think that would be a -- rather a far-fetched conclusion.

Q. Mr. President, does the Government plan, in view of recent contrary demands, to adhere to the Little Steel



formula?

THE PRESIDENT: That -- better ask Bill Davis, Chairman of the (National War Labor) Board. I would be prejudging it if I said anything.

Q. He says it's up to you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. He says it's up to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't come to me yet.

Q. Well, he says he has no authority to change it, that any change would have to be made in the White House.

THE PRESIDENT: He said something, didn't he?

(laughter)

Q. Did he say a mouthful, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Just one of those routine matters that we ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, twice this week you have seen Mr. Nelson and Mr. McNutt, presumably both times on manpower.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Is there anything further you could tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I am going to work on it tomorrow and Sunday both.

Q. Does that mean you are going to have something to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q. A speech perhaps?



THE PRESIDENT: What? Oh No. O Lord, No.

Q. Perhaps by the first of the week, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

You see, on that manpower thing, it's awfully difficult, because of a certain number of people (we have) to get into the Army and Navy, and will for a year to come at least. And the first thing that we are running short of is people under 26, because when you are over 26 you are much too old; and that is where our shortage lies. And the problem is to fill up that shortage with people under 26 without destroying the vital factories in industry.

I think I told you this the other day, that there may be -- Yes, I mentioned the fact that we have cut down tremendously on making cartridges and small ammunition and guns and machine guns. Of course, we have got enough now. Of course, that -- that varies with every passing month. Next month there will be some more plants that we are -- that their supplies will fill us up very well -- will slow down a bit without stopping. At the same time, by next month we may find that some new instrument of war has suddenly come into prominence and that we need a lot more than we planned for.

And so, in going over the list of people under 26, most people are not indispensable until, like you and I, we have reached that age; but the ones who haven't reached that age, they can't be terribly indispensable. But there are a few of them under 26, engineers who are carrying out some special project, that we would have to find some other engineers to



take their places without slowing down the work. Chemists who have been working on some particular research -- can't just take a green young chemist, or an older chemist, and put him in there without slowing down the progress of the work. But relatively there's a small percentage of indispensables under 26, but they are indispensable on the battlefront. Just one of the -- what they call a fact of life.

Q. Mr. President, the W.P.B. has estimated that they would need about 40 thousand of these so called indispensables. Do you think we can spare that number?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what are you going to do? Are you going to lose the battle on the front, or lose it at home? That's the question. We can't send people over to the other side, at this stage of the game, who are not physically up to it. We are trying to cut down, as I said, on certain production that is not absolutely essential to their fighting efficiency. It's a little like a cross-word puzzle -- Yes, a jigsaw puzzle.

Q. Mr. President, on the French situation, have you been able to arrive at any decision which would constitute either a formula for dealing with that now in advance, or for leaving it to General Eisenhower?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have; but I can't tell you what it is. I have finished that up, about three days ago. For certain obvious reasons we can't make it public.

Q. Can you say where it is now, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?



Q. Can you say where it is now?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think probably at the present time it's in the State Department, the War Department, my office out here in the Map Room, and I think it's in London.

Q. Mr. President, can we conclude from what you said before, that our relationship with Finland is in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Would I what?

MR. EARLY: Relationship.

Q. Our relationship with Finland, is it in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Is what?

MR. EARLY: Whether our relationship to Finland is in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. It is, on this end. I don't know what's happening on the other side. It hasn't come over the ticker yet.

Q. On that question, Mr. President, have you -- have we any response to your appeal of yesterday ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- from the Finnish people?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Secretary of State did not have it at two o'clock.

Q. Have you any reason to believe, sir, that the Finnish people know of your statement?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. There was something in the paper this morning about it having been broadcast. Did you read that?



Q. But not -- not in -- not in Finland?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, broadcast on the other side.

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. It has been published ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #944  
Executive Office of the President  
March 24, 1944 -- 11.09 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a number of fairly interesting items.

Today is the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Tydings-McDuffie Act for Philippine independence. Seems like almost yesterday that we signed that. And in view of that anniversary, I thought that I would like to say just a few short sentences -- Steve will have it mimeographed for you -- to the Filipino people.

(reading, not literally): "On this the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, I take the opportunity of conveying again a message of friendship and goodwill to the people of the Philippines.

"American-Filipino friendship has had a long history. The bill for Philippine independence which I signed ten years ago was a manifestation -- concrete manifestation of that friendship. It is a source of deep gratification today to be able to say to the brave people who are now bearing the yoke of Japanese domination, that the return of freedom to the Islands draws closer with each Allied victory. The Philippine government temporarily residing here possesses all of the attributes of an independent nation. And finally, America will fulfill her pledge."

MR. EARLY: May I have that, sir?



THE PRESIDENT: Yes sir, take it away.

MR. EARLY: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I am very sorry to announce that Lowell Mellett is getting out of here -- (looking in his direction). Much to my disgust he's gone and done it again, and there is nothing for me to do except to accept it.

He is going to the Washington Star, and perhaps other newspapers. I am awfully sorry he is going, but I know he will be extremely useful there. He knows how to write, which is more -- some people don't; -- (laughter) -- although his letter -- this is off the record -- his letter of resignation to me and my acceptance of it was turned over to Steve, and Steve edited them both. (much laughter) However, they are very lovely letters, in spite of what Steve did to them. (more laughter) And you can have copies of them.

Then there are -- Leo Crowley resigned as Alien Property Custodian. And Steve has his letter of resignation and my acceptance thereof. Of course, it doesn't change his duties in any way in his other work. And with it I picked up an old letter that he wrote me a few days ago, about his other work -- Foreign Economic Administration -- which I think is -- is worth reading a paragraph out of. You can have the whole thing later.

(reading, not literally): "After the authorization and appropriation for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration are made, if the Foreign Economic Administration is the American agency charged with the



responsibility for handling the appropriation, it will, in collaboration with the War Production Board and the other American allocating agencies, weigh the requests of the UNNRA for farm machinery as well as other supplies in the light of our war needs" ---

--- that is farm machinery to go abroad ---

" --- the needs of the American farmers or civilians for farm machinery or other supplies and other needs elsewhere. As you are well aware, the F.E.A., in their screening of farm machinery moving abroad under Lend-Lease, has clearly kept these, as well as other relevant considerations, in mind.

"Thus, for example, the amount of farm machinery exported under Lend-Lease since the beginning of the program has been less than 2% of the available American supplies."

I would love to have that figure used as a correction of some statements that have been -- been made in the paper.

"This equipment has been sent in the main to countries such as Australia, New Zealand and U.K. to assist in increasing vitally needed food production for war. As you know, these countries, under reverse Lend-Lease, and without payment by us, have supplied our armed forces with very substantial quantities of food."

That's a great many people. Add them up. And I think it is worth while to repeat something that I gave you a long time ago -- a couple of months -- and that is by the first of July this year we will have five million men outside the United States. That's a lot of people.

"Australia and New Zealand, for instance, have



supplied our forces under reverse Lend-Lease with approximately the same amount of beef and veal which we have exported to all Lend-Lease countries. In the U.K. more than 20% of the food for our forces has been supplied under reverse Lend-Lease."

The -- the work of that inter-department committee in regard to refugees (the War Refugee Board), I think perhaps this is an opportune time to release a statement which I prepared last week. It is -- we are keeping in close touch with the Prime Minister and Mr. Stalin in regard to this -- done with their full knowledge and approval.

In the first place, I am making Mr. John (W.) Pehle the -- who has been acting director for the past month or two -- making him a full director -- permanent director.

And the work is -- is doing very well, actually getting people out -- refugees.

Steve will give you copies of this.

(reading, not literally): "The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity."

Some of you people who are wandering around asking the bellhop whether we have a foreign policy or not, I think that's a pretty good paragraph. We have a foreign policy. Some people may not know it, but we really have.

"In the meantime, in most of Europe and in parts



of Asia the systematic torture and murder of civilians -- men, women and children -- by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors innocent Poles and Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos -- many others -- are being starved or frozen to death or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

"The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking"

---

--- sometimes people forget about Nanking ---

" --- the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers -- these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and the Japs are in military control -- free to follow their barbaric purpose.

"In one of the blackest crimes of all history -- begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war -- the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. As a result of the events of the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Jews, who while living under persecution have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily on those lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which



their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy.

"It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished."

That is more foreign policy. We are getting a lot today.

"The United Nations made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that Justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland, or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner himself. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

"Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I am asking every German and every person of any other nationality everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I am asking him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

"In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis



and the Japs. In so far as the necessity of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner -- regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

"In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom-loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Finis.

Q. Mr. President, who is going to take Mr. Crowley's job?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't chosen him yet.

Q. Will that come very shortly, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Very soon, Yes.

Q. Mr. President, does this country too plan to open its -- itself up too as a haven for these refugees also? I mean, do we have any plans of establishing ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, we are taking care of all the refugees that we can get out now. We have a great many in North Africa, you know, at the present time.

Q. What I meant was, whether we plan to bring any here or not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet; because there aren't enough to come, (which is) one reason -- a pretty good one.



Q. Mr. President, when may we expect a Message, if any, on the Soldier Vote legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Pete (Brandt), talking about that this morning. I am not -- I -- I doubt until -- Oh -- about the middle of next week.

Q. A Message?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. A Message?

THE PRESIDENT: There will be a statement.

Q. Statement.

THE PRESIDENT: Call it that. That will be on the safe side. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can say yet on the over-all draft situation -- manpower situation, or are you still working on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Still. I haven't done anything on it in the last few days because I have had a cold, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but I should think within the next few days I expect to have something.

Q. Mr. President -- Mr. President, the average ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The what?

Q. (continuing) --- the fisherman is catching about an average of 80 thousand pounds of food a year, and do you have any plans to protect this supply of food?

THE PRESIDENT: Whose supply?

Q. Our supply.



MR. EARLY: He can't hear you.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite get it.

MR. EARLY: (to the questioner) Louder.

Q. The fisherman is catching an average of 80 thousand pounds of food a year.

THE PRESIDENT: The fishermen?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: For themselves, or for the fish?

(laughter) I don't quite get it.

Q. For us to eat.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh. Certainly we eat more than 80 thousand pounds?

Q. Just one man catches 80 thousand pounds of fish a year.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes.

Q. That's the over-all average.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Are there any ideas for protecting or insuring this supply of food?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I haven't done anything about it since last spring, but the Bureau of Fisheries, you know, at that time, was working on an effort to use all fish that were caught -- that were brought in. It was a problem, at that time, partly of refrigeration and partly of transportation.

Q. It's a problem now of draft deferment.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all I remember is that last



year there was a lovely plan that was offered to me, in a personal letter, which took the time of twenty or thirty Government employees to run down, and that was the theory that a boy of 16 could catch fish just as well as a boy of 18. And they decided unanimously that that was probably so. In other words, it's a question of letting some of the older boys do it, and some of the younger boys. I am one of the older boys that catches fish. (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #945  
Executive Office of the President  
March 28, 1944 -- 4.09 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) said he had absolutely nothing, he has searched the highways and byways.

I can't think of anything else that has happened the last few days, except that about half an hour ago Mrs. Roosevelt got back from South America. Had a very good trip. Went to a very great many places where there are American troops -- sailors, and so forth. Done at my request, as you probably know. Apparently did a lot of good.

Can't think of anything else.

Q. Mr. President, in view of a lot of stories that have appeared, would you like to tell us how you feel?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: How do I feel?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean personally?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I got bronchitis. (laughter)

Q. But otherwise?

THE PRESIDENT: But otherwise -- fine.

I was out to the Naval Hospital this afternoon -- went out after lunch, to get a thing called X-rays taken; and I have -- I have had for probably a couple of weeks -- between two and three weeks, a touch of bronchitis. It isn't very --



(coughing involuntarily) -- serious, but I catch like that.

(laughter) That's about it.

Q. You don't view yourself with as much alarm ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, ---

Q. (continuing) --- as has been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- except -- (again coughing) -- I suppose bronchitis in one case out of 48 thousand 5 hundred develops into pneumonia. So I have one chance, according to the prognosis -- I think that's the word -- of getting pneumonia. But I wouldn't use it as a headline, because there's rather a slim chance, especially as I have had it about three weeks.

Q. Mr. President, recently Dr. Stephen Wise said that you had authorized him to say that the American government never has given its approval to the British White Paper of 1939 about Palestine, and that you were happy that the doors of Palestine were still open, and that you hoped full justice would be done in the future. Now how does that stack up with the Army's opposition to re-opening Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing to stack up to --- it's perfectly all right. Why not? One is a military subject, and the other is an entirely different one.

Q. How would you define the other one, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How would you define the difference?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one is a civilian matter for the future, to be worked out with the eventual -- what we



hope will be a more permanent peace of the world. I think that's a pretty good definition for it.

MR. GODWIN: The -- the other is ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The other is purely military.

MR. GODWIN: Purely military. Would it be a temporary bar?

THE PRESIDENT: It's temporary. It's a temporary bar -- for further discussion at the present time; and a very serious bar too.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, was there any fear that any step about immigration at present would disturb that whole situation in the Middle East say, or across the middle of the world?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think the only question at the present time that is current is to -- what we do with refugees that are coming out from Europe. That is it. That is not a dangerous question in any way. It's a relatively small number of people. They are not all Jews by any means, although I suppose the greater number are Jewish people. They are coming out two ways, we all know that. One is through Spain and the other one is in the Balkans through Turkey. Those are the only -- only avenues there are.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, is there anything at this time that you would like to tell the American people about Cassino, particularly in view of the rather hectic news on the subject -- criticism on the subject by military experts of



the civilian variety?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I thought -- this is off the record, because I can't afford to give him any boost, although sometimes I would like to -- I thought George Fielding -- that has to be off the record -- George Fielding Eliot's this morning is a good story ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Today?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- is essentially a good story.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the stories in the Canadian and American armed service papers, calling the campaign for all practical purposes a failure in Cassino?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I would have to answer that off the record. You know, sometimes you lose campaigns and win battles -- or the other way around.

MR. GODWIN: The other way around. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Lose battles and win campaigns. This particular -- this particular battle -- it wasn't a campaign -- this particular battle, we didn't win it. But, on the other hand, we are just where we were before.

Q. Mr. President, Paul McNutt appeared before a subcommittee today and said that he didn't think now was the time for a national service act, that we should keep on the voluntary means. How does that jibe with your recommendation to Congress in January?

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to see it. I would have to read it, because there might be some other sentences in



there.

Q. Mr. President, in a column printed here Saturday morning, the statement was made that you had written Prime Minister Churchill, shortly before the Badoglio recognition was announced from Moscow, saying that Badoglio should be got rid of because no one could get along with him. Specific mention was made of General Eisenhower. Is there any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds like a columnist. (laughter)

Q. It was, sir. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: It was.

MR. GODWIN: It was.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I thought. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, a couple of years ago you told us that you thought the poll tax was undemocratic. Do you still adhere to that view?

THE PRESIDENT: I have always thought so.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Sir, do you have any information to confirm reports from England that Mr. (Anthony) Eden may step out as Foreign Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word about it, except what I read in the papers. I have had no advice at all.

Q. Mr. President, on the manpower situation again, both Mr. McNutt and General Hershey, in separate statements, seem to think that the thing to do is to put 4Fs into essential war work, even if necessary drafting them. Have you got any



ideas along that line?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it's entirely a question of what I talked about before. You have got to have a certain number of people for certain things. Where are you going to get them? That is the only problem. You can get a few here, and a few there. There isn't any over-all general thing to be said about it. It's a detail question.

Q. Mr. President, their statements were very specific. They said very flatly that they wanted to take 4Fs and put them into occupations such as harvesting and working in military hospitals. And (Lieut.) Colonel (Francis V.) Keesling (Jr.), Assistant Director of Selective Service, went on to say that 4Fs would be taken who were not already doing essential war work. I mean it was extremely specific, and the implication was that the statements were made after consultation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, let me just -- just -- just take that example, and talk about harvesting.

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And you are referring to -- what? -- one group of 4F people ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in relation to the harvesting. But you left out four or five other groups that I can think of. High school boys for one. Girls for another. Newspapermen for a third -- (laughter) -- and so forth and so on. In other words, we come again to the broad picture, we want a lot of people to help harvest, so we have those fellows



in 4F. But you are only touching one little corner of a very big picture. There are lots of other people that ought to be harvesting that "ain't."

MAY CRAIG: But Mr. President, the point ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You ought to be harvesting, May! (loud laughter) I never thought of that. By Jove. I am getting ideas right along.

MAY CRAIG: I would like not to be diverted, please. (more laughter) Which is that these 4Fs are already subject to military duty under existing legislation, and that other men in that class have been drafted and sent to combat, and the argument for it was that those who are similarly subject should be taken for whatever work they can do.

THE PRESIDENT: I think everybody that can possibly do it should work for the winning of the war. Now I can't be more specific than that. But it applies to an awful lot of people who aren't doing it at the present time, an awful lot of people not working for this war. It all comes to a question of soul-searching, and if people won't search their own souls, somebody ought to search their souls for them, and talk about it out loud. That's a good line, that.

Q. Mr. President, Georgia has come out for Steve Early for Vice President. (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that. Is he a citizen? (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: (aside) Is he a 4F?

THE PRESIDENT: I know that he's a citizen of



somewhere down in the hills back of Charlottesville, but that was before the Civil War -- (more laughter) -- and whether he ever got reinstated or not, I don't think so. There isn't anything to show. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: Paid no taxes to be.

Q. Mr. President, any word on the Soldiers' Vote bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, but soon.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

(much laughter)



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #946  
Executive Office of the President  
April 7, 1944 -- 10.59 A.M., E.W.T.

VOICES: Good morning. (the President nodded in acknowledgement)

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig): Hold it for a while, May, and then you can sit down.

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MAY CRAIG: Not coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Will have to ask him if he comes in late. You had better sit right down.

MR. EARLY: Come on, May.

MAY CRAIG: (sitting down) This is illegal.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I got one thing here which I think is of real interest, because it's a -- a report on something we haven't heard about for several months, and that is the stabilization policy of the Government to keep prices from going up through the roof and thereby ultimately bankrupting almost everybody in the country.

This is a report to me from four gentlemen on what the situation is at the present time -- Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, Fred Vinson; Administrator of the Office of Price Administration, Chester Bowles;



Administrator of the War Food Administration, Marvin Jones; and the Chairman of the National War Labor Board, William H. Davis.

It is worth reading because it's of -- of real importance, even though it has been soft-pedaled for the last two or three months. We have had -- during the past year, we have had different -- oh, what shall I call them? -- bouts on the subject, but it has been relatively quiet for the last two or three months.

(reading): "One year ago tomorrow, April 8, 1943, you issued Executive Order 9328, the 'hold-the-line' Order, directing that the stabilization line be strengthened and held. You stated, 'the only way to hold the line is to stop trying to find justifications for not holding it here or not holding it there.'

"On this first anniversary of the issuance of the 'hold-the-line' Order, we can report that the task of stopping the rise in prices has thus far been carried out. The stronger controls provided by the Congressional legislation of October 1942 have been put into effect. As a result, the cost of living, which before the 'hold-the-line' Order was rising  $3/4$  percent a month, has for a solid year been held without change of any consequence."

Now that is worth stressing, because a lot of people that you and I know will say, "Oh, that's nonsense. That's nonsense. I have to pay more for this, and I have to pay more for that." But the trouble is that figures made up as these



are don't lie.

(continuing reading, not literally): "It is true, as everyone knows, that there have been increases in some items, clothing, for example. But these increases have been fully offset by decreases in the prices of other items, notably foods. The general level of the cost of living has not been permitted to rise. Indeed, the cost of living as a whole is slightly lower than it was a year ago today. This record -- one year ago of stable living costs -- is unprecedented either in this war or in the last war."

Or any other war in history.

(continuing reading, not literally): "On wages, too, the record is clear.

"Under the strict standards imposed on the National War Labor Board by the 'hold-the-line' Order, some wage adjustments have had to be made to correct gross inequities, to eliminate substandards of living, and to give effect to the Little Steel Formula. The general effect of our policy has been to increase the earnings of low wage groups, or some of those which lagged behind the general upswing of wages.

"Total earnings have in -- have all increased, due to factors not regulated by wage rate controls -- such as longer work hours, higher paying war jobs, and incentives to produce. Had the policy been to restrict working hours, thereby limiting 'take-home' pay, the result would have injured the war effort. The record production of war materiel could not have been made. The nation's basic wage structure has remained substantially



unchanged during the period of wage stabilization. The level of basic factory wage rates has been raised less than 1-1/2 cents an hour by actions of the War Labor Board. Wages have been stabilized.

"A year and a half ago the entire stabilization program was in jeopardy. The stabilization line was not only bending -- it was breaking in sector after sector. Prophets of disaster freely predicted an inflationary rout."

I am not naming any names.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Only by decisive action to halve the rise in the cost of living could we defend our wage stabilization policy. Only by decisive action to halt the rise of wages could the pressure of costs on prices be kept within manageable limits. The legislation of October 2, 1942, and the 'hold-the-line' Order provided for decisive action all along the economic stabilization front. The results during the last twelve months speak for themselves.

"The stronger stabilization measures now in effect have succeeded because they have had the support of the American people. Throughout this period, to be sure, voices have been raised against one part or another in the program and even against the entire policy. Those voices have become fewer and have been heard less frequently. Today, on its first anniversary, the 'hold-the-line' policy stands approved by the overwhelming mass of the American people.

"Stabilization has brought tangible -- indeed bankable -- benefits to all groups. Corporation profits, both before



and after the taxes, rose in 1943 even above the record-breaking levels of 1942. The net income of farm operators similarly moved up to the second successive all-time high. While basic wage rates have been firmly held, average weekly earnings have moved up to new high ground. With the cost of living stable, these earnings have not been frittered away by rising prices. Stabilization has paid off on every hand -- and in lasting rather than illusory benefits.

"It has been of particular benefit to the more than twenty million people among us whose incomes cannot be increased to keep pace with rising prices. The families of our fighting men, the low-paid unorganized workers, the school teachers and other Government employees, the persons living on old-age and retirement pensions also -- all these have found in the hold-the-line policy the protection which was promised them in the stabilization act."

In other words -- this is not in the letter -- the working press of the United States has been protected from a reduction in wages. That's the best I can say. (laughter) (adding) That isn't much.

(continuing reading, not literally): "We must not jeopardize these gains by any change of policy or relaxation of effort in the critical months ahead. All the underlying conditions which could cause a sharp rise in prices are still present. The best estimates now available indicate, for example, that the gap between the income of the American people after taxes and the volume of goods available for them to



buy will be even greater this year than it was in 1943.

Pocketbooks and checking accounts are bulging with money which could make it difficult to hold prices down if we went on a nationwide buying spree.

"The need for continuing restraint and continued co-operation with every phase of the stabilization program is evident. Obviously, too, we should cling to the policies and machinery that have served us so effectively thus far."

Signed by Vinson, Bowles, Jones and Davis.

Q. Mr. President, could this be interpreted as an answer to demands to shatter the Little Steel Formula?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't an answer to anything. It's a statement of fact, that's all.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any report yet from that committee that was supposed to be investigating the correctness of the Bureau of Labor Statistics's figures on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not yet.

Q. (continuing) --- cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. You will have to ask Davis where -- where that report is.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any comment, sir, about the recent successes of the Russian drive?

THE PRESIDENT: The Russian drive?

Q. In a military sense?

THE PRESIDENT: Military what?

Q. Military sense?



THE PRESIDENT: Oh. Actually, of course, I don't know anything more than what the papers have printed about the Russian drive. It has been going, I think, extremely well. It has been getting it down to the -- the western end of the Black Sea and jeopardized a very large amount of new territory, by the fact that it can expand from this point not only in a westerly direction but also in a southerly direction and a southwesterly direction. It has more places to go, which of course make it -- if it continues at its present pace -- makes a decision on the part of -- of Germany as to just where she is going to make her stand. Obviously, their whole occupation of the Balkans is jeopardized by the fact that the Russians, by a slight turn to the south, can attack her down there. And that brings up, of course, the whole question of the ultimate manpower on the part of Germany.

Q. (interposing) Have you heard ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I should say, offhand, that things are going, in that -- in that front, extremely well. I can't prognosticate.

Q. Have you heard anything, sir, about the Rumanian peace rumors that have apparently been filtering through London -- out of Cairo by way of London, and the activities of Prince Stirbey?

THE PRESIDENT: That's about all we know, that the gentleman is down there in that part of the world. I don't think anything has been sent over here on it at all.

Q. Mr. President, can you comment on the -- Mr.



(Wendell) Willkie's withdrawal from the race for the Republican presidential nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of foreign affairs, has the time now arrived where we might now expect a public disclosure of the armistice terms with Italy, which up to this point have been maintained a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so, because they are primarily military. I don't think it has swung -- swung over sufficiently to the other side.

Q. In some quarters it was suggested that they thought the security might be political now rather than military?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it's still military.

Q. Is there anything, sir, you can say about the -- the suggestion from Naples that the anti-fascists might be permitted to form a coalition cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Can you repeat that?

Q. Is there anything you can say concerning the report that the anti-fascists may be permitted to form a coalition cabinet in Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a thing that changes day by day. I don't think I would say any more on that. It has all been printed.

Q. Is there anything you can say about recognition of the French National Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think anything has



been given out here. It seems to be pretty well common property on the other side. A lot of people know about it.

Q. We don't.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We don't.

THE PRESIDENT: We know as much as they do.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, have you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Now, the question -- the -- the question, Pete (Brandt), really comes down -- down to this, to a definition of what is self-determination. Now, with that lead I could go on and write a great many columns.

What is self-determination? And how do we know how the people of France feel? I don't know. Nobody in this room knows, because I don't think there's anybody in this room that has been in France lately, and even if they had been in France could they have got around in France to more than just one place. I think -- I think that gives you enough of a lead, Pete, to write -- write a story.

The question is, what is self-determination?

Q. That seems to imply, sir, that you consider that the French Committee does not in itself -- also does not ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, on the contrary. On the contrary, it means that I don't know. And neither do you. Who does know? Would you -- would you, for example, on the question of self-determination, would you let that determination be made by the people who are not in France? That's -- that's difficult, isn't it?



Q. Have you gone over Secretary (of State) Hull's Sunday speech (on foreign policy) with him, or have you seen it as yet, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Just -- just a part of it. We talked about it day before yesterday. I haven't seen it in final form.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press and Radio Conference #947  
At Bernard Baruch's Plantation "Hobcaw Barony,"  
Near Georgetown, South Carolina  
April 28, 1944, at 8.55 P.M., E.W.T.

(newspapermen present were Merriman Smith for United Press; Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; and Robert G. Nixon for International News Service)

(stenographic notes were not taken of the first part of this conference. Following is a resume of what the President said during this first part)

The President began the press conference with an expression of his personal, deep sorrow at the loss of the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. He informed the press that Mr. Knox had died at 1.08 p.m., and that he (the President) had the word a few minutes afterward. The President explained that Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire had remained in Washington until he was convinced there was nothing more that could be done for Secretary Knox.

The President spoke of Secretary Knox's marvelous stamina; how he had put in some of his hardest work in his late sixties. He told of the time when Mr. Knox came to the White House and announced to him that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Knox said to him then, "With your permission, I'm leaving in the morning."



The President said he asked the Secretary where he was going.

"Pearl Harbor, with your permission," Mr. Knox replied.

The President asked him what he could do there, to which Mr. Knox replied, "At least I can find out a great deal more there than here."

The President went on to relate how on the very next day Mr. Knox did take off for Pearl Harbor, was in Pearl Harbor in two days, and the following day (third day) called the White House to report to the President, and to suggest to him that he organize an investigating group right away -- the biggest possible little group, not experts but common sense people who have the confidence of the country. The President said he followed the suggestion of the Secretary in naming Justice Roberts to head the Pearl Harbor investigating board. The episode, the President related, was typical of Knox. He was always on the job, always on the go, and never stopped to think of anything but the country's best interests.

Reviewing his four years' close association with Frank Knox, the President remarked that while it would not mitigate the fact of the Secretary's death, he was awfully glad something like this had not happened a year ago. Knox, he said, had done a wonderful job on the preliminary work in bringing the Navy up to its present level. The President said he felt it was the Lord's great will that the Secretary had been spared to do the great work that he has done towards the nation's victory.



(stenographic notes from here on)

THE PRESIDENT: I have watched with amazement the tremendous pace maintained by Frank Knox during the war, and his terrific drive was in a large part responsible for building our Navy to its present wartime strength. While the Navy increased a great deal in '17 and '18, it wasn't anything like so big in '17 as it was in 1941. I think the proportionate increase in the Navy has been a great deal bigger this time than then.

The Secretary's death is a real loss to us in the conduct of the war. He can be called just as much a war casualty as you or I, if we fell off the dock here and got drowned.

I am sending a message to Steve (Early) to give out tonight. I will read it, just for your information. It will be handed out by Steve.

(reading): "I announce to the nation at war, the sudden passing of the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. It is a heavy loss to us and to me especially, who had come to lean on him increasingly.

"He has done much for his country; he has helped greatly in our defense and in making victory certain.

"Finally, I like to think of his bigness and his loyalty. Truly he put his country first. We shall greatly miss his ability and his friendship."

Just for your own personal knowledge, I think



Steve is down enjoying that little party Homer Cummings is giving in Pinehurst, the one he gives each year. You know, it's a funny thing, but every time Steve goes down there, it seems that something big breaks. He has been called back two or three times.

And, of course, there is a dispatch going out to Mrs. Knox. And there will be, in the course of time, a message from me to the naval service.

Q. Is that customary?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I wonder, Mr. President, if we could have a copy of that message to blend in with our story here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, if you don't break it here.

Q. Oh No. It will all be released from Washington.

Q. Are you having a good time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are and we are not.

Q. You should come visit us at the Prince George Hotel.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose they all do know about our presence here by now. Are you having a good time?

Q. Great. I have done an awful lot of things, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been around. Seen some of the old places around here. The Belle Isle Gardens was particularly interesting. Some of the trees there are supposed to be from six to eight hundred years old.

Q. Did you see Brookgreen Gardens?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but I don't know yet what



that place is though. One of the old Huntington ideas. I saw a lot of statues. It's a State park now. What for, I don't know. I saw a lot of deer, and a lot of goats. Must be a game preserve.

Q. Have you been fishing, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Really, not but once. We went outside to an old wreck -- the HECTOR. Got some very good fish -- bluefish and bonita. The bluefish were very good eating. Then we were at the Vanderbilt place where we got some large mouth bass and some bream. Yesterday we went up to Miss Baruch's place. I got one. "Pa" got one. And we have also gone fishing up this creek -- the PeeDee River. Didn't get anything.

I am really having a perfectly good time. I am doing very little work. I am resting, sleeping, and absorbing all the sun possible. I am sleeping about twelve hours a day, catching up on some of the sleep I have lost during the past twelve years. They want me to do it for another week or ten days.

Q. Any trace of the bronchitis left?

THE PRESIDENT: Very little. If I try, I can wheeze.

(the conversation went on from here into a personal talk. It did not relate to any of the subjects discussed at the press conference, and was accordingly not recorded)

(reported by W. M. Rigdon, Lieut(jg) USN)



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press and Radio Conference #948  
At Bernard Baruch's Plantation "Hobcaw Barony,"  
Near Georgetown, South Carolina  
May 6, 1944, at Noon e.w.t.

(newspapermen present were Merriman Smith for United Press; Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; and Robert G. Nixon for International News Service)

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing else happened. All is quiet.

Q. Would you like to sort of review your vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to review it. In one word, I have rested. Had a very quiet time. Been out in the sun as much as possible. Done some fishing -- some salt water fishing, some in the mouth of the river, some off the inlet, and some in the ponds.

You know, the matter of a vacation hide-out for the President is really a problem. I don't know what we are going to do about it. Up until two years ago last December, I used to do a lot of cruising down the Potomac. Then there arose the danger of German subs, and of hostile planes flying over the POTOMAC. It has no anti-aircraft protection. There were no other ships available, and we couldn't get a lot of escort boats for the POTOMAC, so the Navy stopped us.

I looked around for some Government property near Washington where I could spend a holiday. I tried in vain to go to Sugar Loaf Mountain. There's a place up there not



far from Frederick. It belongs to a "dirty rat." He's going to give it to the Government some day, but he didn't want the President going there. We found a place up on the Blue Ridge Mountains, but it was practically impossible to get to.

Then, up almost to Gettysburg, I found a place where we can put up thirty-three or thirty-four. It was built as a recreation center, as part of the W.P.A. It consists of two or three separate camps. It's up in the <sup>[Catoctin?]</sup> Patuxent Mountains, near the Pennsylvania-Maryland line. After using it last summer, toward the end of last summer, they raised the old objection, that it had no anti-aircraft protection -- wanted to find a place where we could have protection from the air. When I first went up there, I found a company of O.S.S. trainees -- secret commandos -- up there. We used them, and also the Marines who were already up there, too.

Then last summer, that Evelyn Peyton Gordon woman broke the whole thing. She goes ahead and spills the thing. I don't know whether that would make it impossible for me to go there again or not, but they are afraid that a certain bunch of crackpots will take some planes -- wouldn't take more than two or three planes -- they could use training planes -- and fly over and unload some bombs on the place. It is pretty well guarded on the ground, but not from the air.

Then I learned of this place here. I like it here. I have been very comfortable down here. I want to come back. Down here I can do a little fishing, and get lots of rest. I like it around Belle Isle Gardens, it's perfectly lovely.

ACB 3-7-57



I would like to come back down here again, but if it becomes known as one of the places where the President goes, it won't hold. So I don't think we should mention it in any of the press stories.

Q. We are in complete sympathy, Mr. President, but I am just wondering if the Charleston and local papers have the same understanding. That would be the governing factor. I know they would like to take a crack at it. The same is true of the Charlotte and Columbia papers. If censorship could hold them in check, it would work.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what to say about that. I would very much like to come back down here sometime next winter. It's a marvelous place to rest. Then, on the other hand, it's pretty difficult to go back to the same place -- really a pretty difficult thing. There's no other place to go. You know, I thought of going to Guantanamo first, but had to rule that out. Guantanamo meant flying down from the train at Miami.

Q. Why did you decide against that?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only tell you the reason off the record. Cuba is absolutely lousy with anarchists, murderers, etcetera, and a lot of prevaricators. They thought it a whole lot better for me to come down here. Easier for me to get back to Washington, if it became necessary.

Q. There is one thing I might say on this matter. As far as the Code itself is concerned, that won't govern the local papers down here. They are perfectly at liberty to



say that you were down here. We could control our product, but theirs, I don't know. Lots of people in South Carolina think you are in Warm Springs. We were in Charleston a day or so ago. They didn't know we were newspaper people.

ADMIRAL LEAHY: Mr. President, I think it is all right for them to tell where you were, especially if there is going to be an elapsed time of three or four months until your next visit. I don't think it would be possible to conceal it.

Q. We are all perfectly willing to cooperate.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all right to mention it.

Q. If we didn't, we would be out-maneuvered by that un-New Deal paper in Charleston. You know, there's been a columnist for that Charlotte paper over at Pawley's Island for the past two weeks, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Did I tell you that I had had an invitation to ride by and wave to the school-children in Georgetown this afternoon? Some sort of a May Day celebration. I had to refuse, however.

One thing that strikes us all about this part of the country down here is the enormous amount of land that is vacant. I have made a number of drives about the country. I love the place -- love going through the woods. But there is an enormous amount of land vacant -- no one on it. It's not being used for scientific purposes either. It's the general feeling of everybody that this part of the country will



support a great many more people, room for a large number of families, and for certain industries locally, like this thing that smells over here. (referring to a pulp mill in Georgetown, across the Bay from Hobcaw)

Q. Can you smell it over here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but don't put that in.

Q. Our hotel is right across the river from it.

THE PRESIDENT: After the first night down here, "Pa" Watson came in to see me at breakfast-time.

I asked him, "Did you do that?"

He said, "What do you mean?"

I told him, "That odor."

He said, "I didn't do it"; and I told him it must have been him, his room is just overhead.

Q. We bought three bottles of incense, but it only aggravated things.

THE PRESIDENT: They have promised to eliminate that smell after the war. This is the second such experience I have run into. At Campobello it was the same thing. In the morning when they light the fires in the factories at Eastport, the odor will knock you out of bed. They make fertilizer out of fish-heads and tails -- guano.

Speaking of smells, I want to say a word about Vermouth. It's something for you to think about, when you have your next Martini. Some years ago, I was going down the Italian continent, and got to Turin. We rode out to an Italian camp, about six or eight miles out of town -- there were



two Italian generals in the car. We got out of the town, and I smelled this awful thing.

"What is that?" I asked.

They said, "It's all right." Worst smell I ever smelled.

He said, "Vermouth."

We drove past it. Over in back of a small building there was a pile, where they did the last process of fermentation -- a pile as high as a house -- of decaying figs brought in from all parts of Italy and taken and thrown on this pile. Then they track them down. The pressure starts the fermentation. That is what Vermouth is made of. Think about that, when you have your next Martini.

Q. Yes, and I like Martinis.

Q. How are you feeling now, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Really better.

Q. Any trace of your bronchitis?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all gone, but Admiral McIntire is going to put me through the usual checkup examinations when we get back, to see if it is all fixed up. Regular thing, you know.

Q. Are there any particular problems ahead of you when you get back? I was thinking of the Montgomery Ward thing.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until the Tuesday press conference. I am going to make a mean statement. Just off the record, there's the law; the law has been followed -- the



advice of the legal branch of the Government. That means not just the Attorney General himself but all the legal branch. Whether the opinion of the Department of Justice is correct, I don't know. Once upon a time I was a lawyer. I don't know. It is being tried out in court.

Q. Did you have any direct communication from General MacArthur after all this hullabaloo?

THE PRESIDENT: No. MacArthur was my Chief of Staff, and a very great friend of mine.

Q. Mr. Miller was merely saying some nice words about MacArthur. If he was going to nominate MacArthur, he should have kept his mouth shut. He hurt MacArthur.

THE PRESIDENT: He doesn't say he will refuse. Stassen is still in.

Q. Are you going to have an announcement any time soon on Mr. Knox's successor?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. What will be the top item on your agenda?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am really well up. We have had a pouch every other day. Certain things I have sent back for further information. I have signed a number of bills, and other regular papers including an appointment of a notary public for the District of Columbia. Got a lot of things out. The things the President has to sign now have been cut in half. The only things I have to sign are courts-martial.

Speaking of courts-martial, I want to tell you a story about a Marine court-martial case at Guantanamo.



You know, a court-martial in any of the services is a very solemn affair. They had appointed down there a major general, a couple of colonels, two or three majors as members, and a judge advocate of the court. They had also assigned another officer to the defense.

The accused was a second lieutenant, a youngster who had, I think, been in the service six months or so. He had been sentenced to dismissal. It was approved by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, the Major General Commandant, the Secretary of the Navy, and, I think, by Wilson Brown.

It came on down to me. I picked it up to read it. The more I read of it, the more I laughed.

This youngster had gone out from Guantanamo -- Guantanamo is a U. S. naval reservation surrounded by Cuba -- he had taken a party out on patrol, to patrol around the edges of the eastern side of the reservation.

About two miles out, they ran across some cows. The cows obviously were strays. There was a good deal of question as to whether the cows were on the Cuban side or the American side. One calf was limping very badly. After a conversation, some members of the patrol felt that this calf was suffering a great deal. That was a perfectly correct assumption. The second lieutenant told the sergeant that he would take the responsibility, and that he thought the calf should be put out of its misery.

So the sergeant shot the calf.

Now, they happened to have in this patrol the com-



pany cook. The cook butchered the calf. The result was the whole company had veal for about three days. Perfectly delicious veal, butchered by the company cook.

The story came to the ears of the major general, that one of his officers had shot a calf. The result was the kid got a court-martial -- and all that a court-martial means in time of war. The court was held. The record built up into a pile of documents. It finally got to the Major General Commandant -- that was before Vandergrift got here. They approved it. It was all lined up to ruin this kid's life -- to dismiss him from the service. Maybe he did want the veal. But it was funny -- the great question was about his decision as to whether or not this calf ought to be put out of its misery.

So I took the recommendation that had been prepared for my signature -- reading "Approved. The sentence will be carried into effect" -- and instead of signing it, I wrote thereon,

"The sentence is approved, but it is mitigated, so that in lieu of being dismissed the accused will be placed on probation for a year, subject to the pleasure of the President.

"This man must be taught not to shoot calves.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt."



It went back to the Marine Corps Headquarters. And they were wild. They thought I was trying to be funny with the Marine Corps.

Q. Been getting much reading?

THE PRESIDENT: Very little. Just been sitting around on the dock, and riding around the plantations. I have been to the jut of this peninsula. Have seen the old fort there, and the old graveyard. The majority of the graves there are those of British officers. It was there where the main traffic artery, the King's Highway -- north to south -- came down from Myrtle Beach to the south, ferried across the river to Belle Island and another fort. These two forts guarded the river.

Q. Very interesting. They anticipated the war, didn't they?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine they did.

(reported by W. M. Rigdon, Lieut(jg) USN)



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #949  
Executive Office of the President  
May 9, 1944 -- 4.18 P.M., E.W.T.

(this is the first press and radio conference held by the President on his return from a month's rest on Bernard Baruch's plantation Hobcaw Barony at Georgetown, South Carolina)

THE PRESIDENT: How is everybody? I won't say what I was going to say. (laughter)

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Fine.

THE PRESIDENT: Not all three of you. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Got back in one piece, didn't you?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Got back in one piece, didn't you?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter) (then speaking softly) I think all I need do as evidence we had a good trip is to point out exhibits A, B and C. (more laughter)

Q. Let's forget that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We have been kidded enough about that. (more laughter)

Q. You look better too, Steve.



MR. EARLY: Pinehurst.

Q. Pinehurst.

(pause here as newspapermen continued to come in)

MR. EARLY: Almost a record-breaking attendance here.

Q. Everybody's here.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it seems and sounds -- and sounds familiar. I had a very good trip. I don't think I need tell you any more about it. If you want evidence of the trip, if you will cast your eyes upon the countenances of the three representatives -- exhibits A, B and C -- of the press associations who were with me, you will find out more about the trip. Just look at them! (laughter) (they were quite tanned, and smiling)

MR. GODWIN: Are they exhibits for the prosecution or the defense? (more laughter) What do you think?

THE PRESIDENT: Luckily, where I was, we don't think in litigious terms. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I see.

THE PRESIDENT: That's all the news I have. (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Dean -- Dean hasn't got any question. I was wondering about it.

MR. GODWIN: I will ask you a question, sir. Have



you heard of the Montgomery Ward case?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I told the ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Could you say anything about that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I told the three "exhibits," whom I saw just before I left down there, that I supposed that they would ask the question; and I told them they had better not, because somebody who wanted trouble would ask the question at the Tuesday's press conference. (laughing) Are you a lawyer?

MR. GODWIN: I wasn't looking for trouble. (laughter) I thought you might have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I was going -- I told them down there that the first question I would ask of the questioner was: are you a lawyer? Well, I -- I have known him quite a long while, and I don't think he has been studying law nights, and I don't think there's an awful lot of lawyers that "lay" around editorial rooms, or are in this room.

You know, it's a funny thing, there's a thing called law. We don't hear about it much -- what do you call it? -- practical operations of Government -- except through the Department of Justice. And the Department of Justice has a duty, which we are very apt to forget. It happens to be in the -- in one of the early statute laws; I think it's the original law that created the Department of Justice. It wasn't in the Constitution. You probably know by now -- I would say, if you remember back to the early days when you



first came to Washington, that the Departments are not set up under the Constitution. They are set up in the law. Well, the law which set up the Department of Justice way, way, way back -- before you were born -- said that the Attorney General, meaning the Department of Justice, would be the legal adviser of the Government of the United States. Well, that -- that law stayed ever since, and works in with the Congressional law. It is set up in this particular case that you are asking about.

About -- soon after Pearl Harbor, I got pledges from the great bulk of organized labor, saying there would be no strikes. You remember that. That is really -- recent history. And they said they would very much like it if we could get established a National War Labor Board. This is -- this is ABC stuff, but sometimes -- sometimes it's a good thing to read it over. And the ABC stuff said that this National War Labor Board would be a tribunal, where labor disputes would be settled in an orderly manner. Well, on the whole now, it has been going on from December 7, '41, which was the date of the -- of the origin of the whole thing, the war itself -- been going on until now, the late spring 1944.

And on the whole, the -- where there have been strikes, the ending of those strikes has been fairly prompt. There have been exceptions, of course, both here and in the other great democracies which are fighting at our side, and with similar laws -- England. And the total percentage of strikes has been, on the whole, very low. We have had



that out before.

And in order to implement the progress of this, and because of a very serious, threatened strike which threatened to tie up not just one industry or one series of supplies for the Government -- the coal strike -- it looked as if it might tie up the whole of industry, which was a terrible threat against the Government -- so Congress passed a thing called the Smith-Connally Act, which gave statutory authority to the War Labor Board, which had been in existence for some time before that, and provided in that Act that whenever a labor dispute threatened to interfere with the war effort, the Board would take jurisdiction and fix the terms and the wages and conditions of employment. That would continue until changed by the Board.

And then came this Smith Ward -- the Montgomery Ward case. And the Board -- War Labor Board by unanimous vote took jurisdiction, including the industry members on that Board. After the hearings, the Board by unanimous vote ordered Montgomery Ward to continue until an election could be held -- the wages and terms of conditions of employment that had existed for a year.

Montgomery Ward refused to comply, on the ground that the union no longer represented a majority of its employees. Well, they had a right, except that they laid themselves open for subsequent action.

MR. GODWIN: You said they had a right?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Montgomery Ward, like any



citizen, had a right to say, "I won't live up to the law" -- the action of this War Labor Board which is now duly authorized by law, just as you would have the right to say, "I won't go to jail." But the police would have a right to take you to jail, if they thought they had a case. Same thing -- you would have a perfect right to decline to go, only I don't think you would.

The employees thereupon went on strike, after -- I am just giving you a little history that the country doesn't know. Now that's an actual fact. I want to emphasize that. And if it had been -- this had been only the old press conference, I would have said the press hasn't let the country know, but being a radio conference also now, besides press, I will say that the radio hasn't let them know. Now that's mathematically provable. It's a perfectly simple thing. And I am not charging it. I am merely stating it as a fact. I am not even asserting, I am not even admitting it.

MR. GODWIN: Which particular fact hasn't the press and radio let them know?

THE PRESIDENT: Just what I said.

MR. GODWIN: All the way down?

THE PRESIDENT: All except what -- the whole thing. What I have said, plus what I am going to say.

After all other efforts to secure compliance with this Order failed, the Board again by unanimous vote -- second time -- recommended that the property be taken over, pending an election by the employees. That their recommendation be



taken was after their second notice to me that there had been no compliance.

The Director of Economic Stabilization (Fred Vinson), who passes on sanctions, joined in the recommendation.

The Attorney General submitted an opinion, that under the law the Government had authority to take possession.

Thereupon came out the telegram to Montgomery Ward and the union, and it stated that an election, which would clear things up, would be held within thirty days. Thereupon, having announced that the election would be held within thirty days, I called on the company to continue its contractual relations until the election, and called on the employees to return to work.

The employees complied.

The company refused.

Then I directed Secretary (of Commerce Jesse) Jones to take possession of the property, and as employer to continue with the contractual relations until we could have the election.

This election -- over the protest of the union -- it's too quick -- was ordered, and it is being held today. They are having an election today.

If the election shows that the union does not have a majority of the employees, that is the end of the case. Now that's simple. That has never been stated by press or radio. On the other hand, if the election shows that the union has a majority, then the management has already declared that it



is willing to continue its contract, and that will end the case.

There used to be all sorts of bedtime stories about children who saw things under the bed. And as you know, sometimes when people grow up, they see things under the bed. And you have got a very interesting thing. Mind you, I was able to see it because I was away, and I could look down on the whole thing. And that is what it is, what I -- I saw happen, a lot of people seeing things under the bed in this country, because they haven't got over their childhood habits. Maybe that's an allegory.

And I will read this last thing just once.

\*\*\*\*\* If the election shows that the union does not have a majority of the employees, that will end the case. On the other hand, if the election shows that the union has a majority, then the management has declared that it is willing to continue its contract, and that will end the case. \*\*\*\*\*

So I hope that by tonight when the news comes over the ticker, that we will all feel better.

Q. How about a direct quote on it, Mr. President?  
(the President indicated approval, and this reporter read back the paragraph starred above)

THE PRESIDENT: And the only other thing is that, after they once end this matter -- off the record -- I hope you will all crawl out from under the bed. (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: Well, Mr. President, with the exception



of the last two sentences, everything that you have said I heard on the radio or read in papers. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, ---

MAY CRAIG: (interjecting) Yes, sir. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Yes, yes? Next to the last page?

MAY CRAIG: Not the last two sentences, the quoted sentences, but ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Next to the last page?

MAY CRAIG: (continuing) --- everything else.

THE PRESIDENT: Was it the lead? Was it in the lead, May? Oh No -- Oh No. I have been covering papers while you have been ---

MAY CRAIG: (interposing) Dorothy Thompson had it.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, maybe. Well, ---

MAY CRAIG: (interposing) Mark Sullivan had it. Two good ones.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't let's get into personalities. Mind you, I have been specializing for the last few weeks in reading papers. You ought to read papers the way I do. (much laughter)

MAY CRAIG: I read them. I read them.

Q. Mr. President, who ordered the troops to take Mr. (Sewell) Avery out of there?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose it was done like



any number of other plants we have taken over. I don't know, Pete (Brandt). I don't know. Nothing unusual about that.

Q. Mr. President, may we turn from mail order to politics for a minute?—(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Last night, Chairman (Robert E.) Hannegan made a very direct statement, that it was his personal judgment that you were going to be the candidate in 1944 for the Democratic ticket.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, look -- look. I am only just back. And I am not going to talk about it now, any more than I did before. And number one, I didn't read what he had said. And number four, if I do read it, I am not going to talk to you about it. That's easy -- and you could have answered it yourself. (laughter)

Q. Well, Mr. President, there are only 71 days before the Democratic National Convention. (much laughter, with the President laughing loudest)

Q. Would you give us -- would you give us some clue when you will be ready ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) My God, ---

Q. (continuing) --- to talk about it?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- have you been counting? (more laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. On the calendar.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't. Bad habit. (continued laughter)



Q. Anything about the vice presidential nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. I don't talk about that either.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I have talked to the Vice President about his trip.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, what about Knox's successor?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I talked to him yesterday morning for about three minutes -- Henry Wallace's expected trip.

Q. Mr. President, any announcement about a successor to Knox?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Not yet. Soon.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us ---

Q. (interposing) Soon, did you say?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Could you tell us -- give us a fill-in on what Mr. Stettinius has told you since your return?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh No. It wouldn't go in the paper. 21 pages -- a memoranda with, I think -- I think something like 40 subjects. Everything. Everything in the world.

He went over there, you know, with no agenda, no whatever they call the thing. He took up all kinds of questions in an extremely effective way, and the result has been awfully good, because there were a good many of the



subjects -- I think there were 40, or something like that, of them -- they were things that we hadn't discussed with the British at first-hand for a long time. And some of them ended in fairly long discussions. They all made progress. It was an extremely useful trip, and showed the course of the next lot of things which should be taken up, you might say straightened out the -- the order of -- of need, of talking with the British on all these subjects soon.

Like for instance the -- Oh, I am trying to think of something that -- that would -- for instance, the oil. That really created no discussion, because they are in the study stage and won't come up beyond the study stage for several weeks. Other things are in the more accurate stage. It was a very good, a very useful trip, and we are still talking about it. We had two good conferences. We are going to have another.

Q. Mr. President, since you have been reading the papers so closely, did you read about Father (Stanislaus) Orlemanski's visit to Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Did you have that advance knowledge, that it was going to be made?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are sending people abroad all the time. You can apply to go over. And you would be surprised that a lady over in the State Department -- I can't think what her name is ---

VOICES: (interjecting) Mrs. (Ruth) Shipley.



THE PRESIDENT: She's grand. A regular "ogre."  
She's a wonderful "ogre."

Well, if you can get by Mrs. Shipley, it means that you have conformed, you have lived up to the law, and everything else. And then, apparently, these two people got over. I think Mrs. Shipley was satisfied with the reasons they gave for going over. There are people going over all the time. Why, all of you could get over, if your excuse was good enough. Think of that! (laughter) There are only a few of you that I wouldn't allow to go over. (more laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you very much.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #950  
Executive Office of the President  
May 16, 1944 -- 4.12 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: You have got to take down a lot of figures. I am going to leave some of this out -- (indicating figures before him) -- it won't be so bad as you think.

Q. Just take it slow then, will you? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: A report from the Budget.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I was just telling the front row to sharpen their pencils. I have got some figures for you. I am not going to have it mimeographed because I don't think it's worth it. I am speaking in comparative terms now.

These are reductions in the 1945 fiscal year war program, expenditures below the January estimates, which nearly -- all, of course, which went in from here and the rest of us budget experts in early January.

The recommendations now total 85.7 billions, compared with the January estimate of 90 billion decimal five, or a reduction of 4 decimal 8 since then. But they include -- these new figures of 85.7 -- three-and-a-half billion of new appropriations, recommended for Lend-Lease, on which no preliminary estimates were made last January.

Thus, as it stands now, with this increased -- with this new recommendation of three-and-a-half (billion) for Lend-Lease, the recommendations to Congress are 8 billion point three less than the corresponding preliminary estimates



made last January.

Now that 8 billion, three reduction is made up of 4 billion point 4 for the Navy, three billion for the War Department and the military establishments, and one billion for the War Shipping Administration; and other war activities are up a hundred million dollars. In other words, making the total reduction of 8.3.

These were made feasible because the January estimates were based on the major decisions which had been made very recently as a result of the -- the Cairo and Teheran meetings on strategic plans of the Allied Nations, and since then it has been possible for the planners -- military planners to determine with greater precision what they would need for the particular areas where fighting has taken place, or will take place.

And as they say here in this memorandum -- it depends on one word -- "to relate the procurement program to a definite operational plan." Another factor of importance was the decision that the expanded productive capacity of the nation constituted our real reserve of supply, and accordingly warehouse stocks during this coming year should not exceed the volume necessary to keep our supply pipelines filled. And then the third factor was that operational losses since January on land, sea and air were also less than had been previously anticipated.

Well, take for instance, the total loss of merchant ships by submarine action. The recommendations of the War



Department, Navy Department and Maritime Commission, Shipping Administration, and the Lend-Lease, represent 98.6 percent of the total 1945 war program. Which is rather an interesting thing, which some people won't mention.

Q. Mr. President, we didn't get that here. We didn't understand that last point.

THE PRESIDENT: All these things, War, Navy, Shipping Board, Lend-Lease, represent 98.6 percent of the total 1945 war program. In other words, it's practically the whole percent goes into those three major factors -- four major factors.

The remaining 1.4 percent provides for the emergency war agencies outside of those, and the war activities of the regular Federal agencies. Of course, there are always certain things, the State Department, and so forth and so on, that relate directly to the war, outside of the four big spenders. But the totals of the -- of those are only 1.4.

Q. Calendar year?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Calendar year?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am talking about fiscal year 1945.

Q. Did you say, Mr. President, that the State Department and similar activities were within that one point

---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. Yes. All the other agencies of the Government are within that 1.4. In other words, 98.6 percent is just for Lend-Lease, War, Navy, Shipping Board.



Q. Can you expand a little more as to why the operational losses were less, or how they were less? That's a good story, if we can get some details on it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the example I used was the fact that we expected a great many more merchant ships to be sunk by submarines than actually have been sunk; and -- oh -- other things, like I suppose the -- the life of the artillery that is at the front. Evidently that's one of the items -- the guns are lasting longer than we thought they would last.

Q. Mr. President, does that contemplate the guns are not being used?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. They are being hit less frequently, and they are being better taken care of.

And then the -- the following tabulations, which are not very important, go more into the details by departments. I don't believe you want that. And then a small item, one ten billion, one six billion -- I won't even give you that -- liquidating obligations incurred against prior contracts. That's a different thing. I haven't got all of that on ----.

Now, these amounts that I read, whatever the figure is -- 85.7 -- are recommendations. They represent the amount required for the placing of orders and the letting of contracts, rather than the amounts of the anticipated cash expenditures for the fiscal year 1945. Well, that -- this is based on the budgetary business. For instance, the other day, Budget brought me in a story for you people on the War Department final estimates. I don't know what it ran to. It ran to



some perfectly vast sum. And I read it, and that was in the -- in the lead. And I found it wasn't true at all, because it wasn't explained. It was 45 billion of -- of -- of new appropriations, but there was an -- an even larger sum, I have forgotten what -- fifty -- sixty billions, that was left over from previous appropriations. So the story there in the lead was not -- not -- not the total thing, because that was not the point -- but we were only asking 45 billion new appropriations. That's the way it came out, and that's the way you people carried it, which was correct. There was a small sum of money that was left out of an appropriation. We were asking for a whole lot of money re-appropriated out of previous appropriations, but it was not clear until I got it, and I re-wrote it for you.

Q. Mr. President, is this going up in the form of new budget recommendations to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Steve, do you know that?

MR. EARLY: Mr. President, this is a complete report on all of the war estimates and recommendations. They have already been submitted to the Congress. This is a summary of it.

Q. A summary of the whole thing ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, that's right.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's right.

Q. (continuing) --- as reflected in the appropriations for the 1945 fiscal year?



THE PRESIDENT: They have gone up.

MR. EARLY: Now up in the hands of the Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, only one thing that it hasn't gone up on. Steve -- where was that, Steve? (indicating the figures before him)

(as Mr. Early conferred with the President, an air-raid siren sounded suddenly, provoking much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now what do we do?

MR. EARLY: Did you hear the whistle?

THE PRESIDENT: Can't get out! (more laughter)

Yes, that's right -- I told them that. That's right, Yes.

I have a wonderful story that I -- is really an off the record story, and it really belongs to Steve. But I think it would hurt Steve's feelings if I told you, even off the record.

Q. Don't spare him too much, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Don't spare him too much.

MR. EARLY: Don't spare yourself. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He dug the story out. Don't you think I ought to tell them, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Some other time. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's on the White House Correspondents' Association so I'll be kind, I won't tell you.



It's all right. (more laughter) That would hurt Steve's feelings.

Q. What have we done now, sir? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What have we done now? (continued laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, maybe -- maybe I can give you a tip.

MR. EARLY: Better leave it where they "flang" it.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Never mind, sir. (continued laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. You haven't done anything. But -- I won't now -- I'll cut it out. (pausing) The story relates to President Hoover. I think it happened just this past week -- since last week. (pausing again)

Q. Go ahead! (a burst of laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And Steve found out where it had gone. (another pause) Now I will tell you just one other thing -- (more laughter) -- and nothing else. (continued laughter) About a week ago, we found out that a former President had lost his "hair shirt." Period. Thanks. (much laughter, and whispered comments on what he had said)

Q. Who's got it now?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I said I would answer no more questions.

Q. Is it in the laundry, Mr. President? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am putting it in my "column."



It's all right. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been some reports out in Madison, Wisconsin, that you might see fit to endorse the Democratic State ticket out there. Would you care to confirm the reports in any way?

THE PRESIDENT: I know -- I am strictly off the record absolutely -- I know nothing about it.

Q. Mr. President, two Oklahoma Congressmen saw you today (Jed Johnson and William G. Stigler), and when they came out, one of them told us that 22 delegates -- Democratic delegates to the Convention -- Democratic Convention yesterday pledged you. And we asked them did they tell you about it, and they said Yes. And we asked them what the reaction was, and one of the Congressmen said, well you didn't seem exactly angry about it. I wonder if you could tell us in a little more detail what your --- (laughter drowned out the rest of the question).

THE PRESIDENT: No, Merriman (Smith), I couldn't. I was so -- just at that time, Steve had told me about what he had found, and I thought -- (laughter) -- I had really forgotten that they had told me. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, could you comment on the plan the Australian government has for a postwar meeting of leaders in the Pacific, to which they have invited Prime Minister Churchill, and I understand that he has indicated he will attend? I wonder if you are going to attend?

THE PRESIDENT: I heard that. Somebody told me.



I didn't even read it. Somebody told me that as a rumor. I haven't heard a word from the Australian or the New Zealand delegates. I don't think they have left England yet, but I expect to see them both on their way home, both Peter Nash (meaning Fraser) and Mr. (John) Curtin. I haven't heard anything except the rumor.

Q. Mr. President, shortly after last Tuesday's press conference, Mr. Sewell Avery said that he had no intention of signing a contract with the Montgomery Ward workers at Chicago, apparently disagreeing with the statements that you had made at the press conference. Do you have anything further on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Mr. President, have you received a report from the War Labor Board on -- on the Hummer Manufacturing case?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. (looking in Mr. Early's direction)

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, have you got any late reports on the Italian campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what you have seen. The War Department reports are just the same thing as yours -- and all published.

I will say this, that the -- in one of those things, just to show the difficulty of being three thousand or more miles away from the place, the first day that I got the reports on the Italian campaign, just after we jumped off, I



wasn't feeling at all well about it.

And of course, when you have a major operation of that kind, I am very apt to disappear, to devote most of the time -- this is off the record for all of you -- there will be times where I am going to -- to disappear, so far as you are all concerned, during a very important thing.

And I was away from -- what? -- call it this room, and the reports came in to me in a different place than this room. And that first day I was very much worried, because we didn't seem to be making much progress on that Italian push. But it got better the second day, and better the third day, and this is the fourth day; and the -- the whole success of the operation is much more encouraging today than it was when it started on Thursday night. You see, it started our time on Thursday night -- about five o'clock in the afternoon. Things are distinctly better.

Q. Mr. ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, was all of that off the record, or at least what you said about ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

Q. (continuing) --- your going to be away?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that about my being away. Because when you get into an important thing, it is much better that I should keep a fairly -- fairly clear mind on the whole of this thing.

As you know, I talked the whole thing over with General (Mark) Clark only about three weeks ago -- came



down to see me.

Q. Mr. President, Ross McIntire said he was going to make another thorough physical examination as soon as he comes back. Has he done that yet?

THE PRESIDENT: He is going to next week.

(laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #951

Executive Office of the President

May 26, 1944 -- 4.11 P.M., E.W.T. (Friday)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a number of things this "morning." The following -- it has been published -- that we have called this meeting early in July on the monetary subject. I thought I would read you the -- just a summary of the form of the invitation that went to the other United Nations and associated nations.

The publication of the joint statement of the technical experts, recommending the establishment of the international monetary fund, has been very -- received with great gratification here, as marking an important step toward a postwar international economic cooperation. Undoubtedly your people have been equally pleased by this evidence of the common desire to cooperate in meeting the economic problems of the postwar world. Therefore, I am proposing to call a conference of these nations, for the purpose of formulating definitely -- formulating definite proposals for the international monetary fund, and possibly a bank for reconstruction and development.

May (Craig), this is very important. You ought to take this down. (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It would be understood, of course, that the delegates would not be required to hold plenipotentiary powers, and its proposals formulated at the conference would



be referred to the respective governments and authorities for their acceptance or rejection.

I thought I would put that in before certain agencies of information could say that I was doing this without consulting the Congress.

Therefore -- and I hope very much that you will accept -- send in the names of the delegates.

It is the Government's belief that formulation of definite proposals for an international monetary fund, and bank for reconstruction and development, in the near future is a matter of vital -- vital concern to all of the United Nations, and the nations associated with them.

My Government sincerely hopes to receive a favorable reply at the earliest possible moment.

You have got the names of all the countries that have been asked to send delegates. They have been told yet where it will be?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Bretton Woods (New Hampshire). And the usual arrangements that have worked out at the last couple of conferences.

Q. Mr. President will the press be admitted to that meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but you can't sleep with the delegates. (loud laughter)



Q. (aside) Why?

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Enough said! (more laughter)

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. Does that hold both ways, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. (more laughter) No more questions. You will get me embarrassed.

MR. GODWIN: I was going to ask, ---

Q. (interposing) How about Congressmen, Mr. President?

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- who wants to sleep with the delegates?

MR. EARLY: There may be some ladies.

Q. How about Congressmen?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you sleep with them all the time, so what's the difference? (continued laughter)

Q. Are they going to be appointed as delegates? I mean the Members of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Have the delegates been given out yet?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It hasn't.

MR. EARLY: Hasn't been decided.

Q. Mr. President, in the case of the relief and rehabilitation agreement, I believe that the United States, Russia, and Great Britain had reached an agreement before they called the other nations in. Is that true in this instance?



THE PRESIDENT: Oh, the preliminary steps you will have to ask the State Department about. I couldn't cover them all just from memory.

Then, one question which I -- Steve thought that you might ask a question about.

I have had the Director of War Mobilization and the War Department working on the problem of the use of war prisoners, to the maximum number possible, this summer on farms. And the Director of War Mobilization sent this through the Under Secretary of War, Mr. Patterson, to me.

MR. EARLY: The opposite way, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: That is from Patterson through Byrnes to you.

THE PRESIDENT: No. Transmitted by the Director of War Mobilization through the Under Secretary to me.

MR. EARLY: That's right, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's what I said.

(reading, not literally): "Inquiries from various sections have recently been made to the War Department, concerning the use of prisoners of war for seasonal work, particularly in agriculture and food processing during the summer.

"There are at present a hundred thousand prisoners of war available for all kinds of manual labor. The demands for their labor, of course, are greatly in excess of the supply.

"The United States will observe the terms of the Geneva Convention, which forbids the use of prisoners of



war in direct war activities and in hazardous occupations. Subject to this limitation, it is the policy of the War Department to utilize the labor of prisoners of war on projects of a useful character where our own -- own supply of manpower is inadequate.

"The most effective use is on necessary work of a non-military character at Army camps, posts and stations, where the work releases soldiers -- American soldiers -- for military activities, and on work that continues throughout the year. With this use in mind, a large number of prisoners are located at Army installations. Employment of this character results in the least amount of idleness. The balance are available for seasonal work, and it is the practice of the War Department to furnish prisoners of war seasonal work according to priorities specified by the War Manpower Commission, so far as considerations of location, safety and other factors will allow. In the case of agricultural workers certification is made by the War Food Administration and priorities set by the War Manpower Commission.

"The War Department will keep the matter under constant study and will do its best to see to it that maximum utilization of prisoners of war is carried out. As conditions change, the numbers furnished for various activities will change."

I think that's all I have got. The rest may come out. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, ---



Q. (interposing) Mr. President, you have so far received far more than enough delegates to the Democratic Convention to assure -- (the President began to laugh) -- to assure your renomination, except for one fact, unless you refuse it. Now, not asking what your decision is, but have you reached a decision -- (more laughter from the President) -- whether to accept or refuse?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, this is good. We get a different form of it every -- just about once a week. That's a new one. It's a brand new one. It's awfully interesting.

Q. What's the answer, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What's the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am making a list of the varieties of questions.

Q. Are you going to answer them all at once, Mr. President? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think the time -- I will give you -- I will give you a real good one: Time will tell. (continued laughter)

Q. Only 55 days of time left.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) You remember in 19 and 40, there was some lady -- at least she said she was a lady -- (more laughter) -- that got out -- oh, what? -- back about -- just after the Convention -- "93 days more of Roosevelt." And the second time the word "only" in. "Only 92 days of -- more of Roosevelt." And she went right on down through.



(laughing) And I bet you have all forgotten her name. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, here is a related question. You were nominated for President last week by a liberal party (formerly Communist Party) in New York. Have you been notified of that nomination? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I have been notified in very interesting terms by ninety percent of the press.

MR. GODWIN: Have you -- have you made a reply?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet, because they are still coming in.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) The liberal party, they should have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) They are still coming in.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- they should have let you know.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) These press notices are coming in. I find them in my clippings.

MR. GODWIN: May I get back to the farm matter? Do you know how the farmers could get in touch with who or whom, on this war prisoners matter?

THE PRESIDENT: Who in your own State? Does it say, Steve?

MR. GODWIN: Commissioner of Agriculture?

MR. EARLY: The county agent, Mr. President. The county agents.

MR. GODWIN: County agent.



THE PRESIDENT: County agent. And of course, we have given as much as we can, but we have to distribute it fairly all over the country.

Q. Mr. President, with the time of invasion apparently drawing nearer, is there anything you can tell us in generalized terms about our preparations, and our -- our chances for the success of the operation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's in the first paper that I happen to hold in my hand, thinking that somebody would use the word "invasion." And Merriman (Smith), you did it.

There was an editorial in a -- a certain local paper (The Washington Post for May 13), suggesting that the word "invasion" is not quite adequate for the tremendous thing that is happening in Europe, and suggesting that instead of the word "invasion" that we should call it "liberation."

And I most heartily reciprocate that idea. It isn't a war of invasion -- you want to get the word "invasion" out of people's heads all over the world -- it's a war of liberation.

This action in Europe, which is going to come off some time this summer, is intended to be a liberation and not an invasion, and I would say that all of our plans are built on that basis.

Of course, we have got a great deal further ahead in the discussion of things at the present time than we had at a -- what we might guess at having been a similar period in the last war.

Well, one -- one very -- very important example.



I was reading a book the other day -- I have forgotten the name of it -- that pointed out that it wasn't until sometime in the rather late summer of 1918 that we began a study of the postwar World War problems, and had all kinds of papers, information of all kinds that were thrown together, I think it was under the supervision of Colonel House. And he appointed a committee. This particular book mentioned the fact that Isaiah Bowman was extremely active in -- in getting information about all kinds of things, like racial origins, and the history of boundaries.

The result was that in December -- early December, when the President left for the peace conference -- that same year, mind you -- '18 -- they took dozens of packages of this information over to the other side. A lot of it had been pretty thoroughly digested by the experts, old and young, who accompanied the peace mission. But there had been practically no discussion of postwar World War -- first World War terms with the other Allies. There had not been time. And I don't suppose any one of the Allied nations had done any talking with any other Allied nation except in very general terms as to whether they could come together on an agreed program -- what it should be -- general discussion -- beforehand. So they arrived in Paris with all the information in the world, but practically very few plans -- concerted plans.

Now, of course, we have done a great deal along that line. We have had the conference at White Sulphur Springs that you all loved so much. We had the conference at Atlantic City just recently. We had the ---

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[Hot?]



MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Labor conference in Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I.L.O. labor conference. And now we are having the monetary conference.

In other words, this merely follows what I think I mentioned just about a year ago, that we are taking up these things. We can't do them all at the same time, but we are taking up the major problems of the postwar world and talking them over, and in many cases making specific recommendations or specific determinations of what we are going to do to seek -- all the United Nations. In other words, we are making far greater progress in this war than we did in the last war. Coming along in an orderly way, with the retention of friendships -- using separate rooms, and coming along all right.

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, the Secretary of State said at Noon today that this country is probably more advanced than any of the other Allied countries in plans for a general security organization in the postwar world.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I think that's true.

Q. (continuing) However, nothing has been said specifically as to the nature of the plans, which now apparently are in good shape.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, for instance, I -- I have been -- I have had two sets of conversations, one at the Casablanca conference and the other with the -- one was the combination of the Cairo conference, where the Far East was represented, and the Teheran conference.



And of course, as you all know, we have talked about a postwar world. I am trying to eliminate a third World War.

Furthermore, in those discussions, there have -- while at that time there was nothing on paper, we talked things over pretty thoroughly, and since then they have been reduced to -- what? -- first draft form. Well, I wouldn't give out a first draft any more than I would give out a first draft of one of my speeches. It would horrify you. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: It would.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It would horrify you. (more laughter) In my -- my fifth, sixth, or seventh draft you might say was at least worth listening to. So we are -- on that line, too, we have got along reasonably well.

Q. Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, there was a word in Mr. Reynolds's question on which your answer depended, which I missed in my -- I have Hull said this country was further ahead on security plans ---

Q. (Tom Reynolds) (interjecting) General over-all.

MR. GODWIN: General over-all.

Q. Mr. President, in these discussions about postwar policy, are you finding the Soviet Union an active and satisfactory collaborator?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. Yes.

Q. Mr. President, are you considering the appointment of somebody from the West Coast as Under Secretary of the Navy, or Assistant Secretary of the Navy?



THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can only tell you off the record, and that is that I am considering -- I have forgotten, what? -- five, six, or seven names; and Jim Forrestal at Cabinet meeting, which ended only three minutes ago about, asked me whether I wanted to talk about it. "No," I said, "it will have to wait until the beginning of the week."

Q. He didn't suggest a successor to himself?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There's no point talking about it.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, is an appointment going to be made to take Mr. Wilson's place as delegate to the French Committee at Algiers?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Have to ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Churchill in his foreign debate speech said that General De Gaulle was invited to London with your full approval. Could you tell us the purpose of General De Gaulle's visit to London?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you would have to ask Mr. Churchill.

Q. In that same connection, Mr. President, there was a dispatch from London this morning saying that Russia is about to recognize the National Committee as a -- the permanent government of metropolitan France. Have you received any information from Moscow to that effect?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better check



Moscow. Find out how he came to write that.

Q. That came from London, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. That came from London, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better check London.

That wasn't A.P., was it?

Q. No, but very often the A.P. --- (laughter drowned out the rest of this answer).

Q. Mr. President, do you anticipate a meeting with Mr. Churchill this summer?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I hope some time, but I don't know when. This summer, or autumn -- or late spring -- something like that.

Q. What about winter?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. You missed winter.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't like -- I don't like stormy weather on the Atlantic. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, does Mr. Churchill's outline of the postwar world conform to yours and Mr. Hull's first draft?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I couldn't go into that. We have been talking now for a whole year. You will have to -- you will have to excuse me from going into that kind of detail.

Q. Mr. President, the -- Senator McCarran suggested that the decisions of the War Labor Board should be submitted to judicial review. Do you have any comment on that suggestion?



THE PRESIDENT: Only this. Now I will put it in the form of a question.

If you have a decision of the War Labor Board, affecting a firm which has locked out its employees or failed to keep its word, or a whole bunch of employees who walk out and won't go back, and then they were to -- the War Labor Board were to hand down the decision, and then it went to the District Court, and then to the Circuit Court of Appeals, and then to the Supreme Court, and then to a committee of investigation by the Senate, what would happen to the poor devils who were out? Who would pay for their food?

That's the answer.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #952

Executive Office of the President

May 30, 1944 (Memorial Day) -- at 4.08 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have much news.

On the Brewster plant matter -- Long Island -- looking into the whole situation there -- I asked the Navy Department for a report. Especially, I have asked Justice Byrnes to go into it, and I was talking with him a few minutes ago and he thinks, what probably is true, that the -- the action of stopping the building of planes there, except the small number they still have on hand to be built, had to be done in the interest of economy, but which was probably -- as far as we can tell now -- done too fast, or put the other way -- without sufficient notice. However, the thing is coming along all right.

And the Navy is -- and any other organization of the Government -- is being asked to put in there any new contracts that could be appropriately placed there. And that includes the -- the Navy and the (War) Production Board, and any other building organization.

Also, the Joint Contract Termination Board -- which has been set up about a week ago, among other things, to cover situations like that -- is just being organized, and it has only started a week ago -- hasn't had time yet to get into this particular instance. Working closely -- in close touch with Mr. (Richard T.) Frankenstein, the vice president of the United Auto Workers. And I think the situation will be cleared up.



I don't think I have got anything else.

Q. Mr. President, this Joint Contract Termination Board that you referred to, is that the one that is headed by Mr. (Charles E.) Wilson of the War Production Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, there has been a lot said recently about the transfer of some of our warships, or a warship, to the Russian government. I wonder if you would ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. This is the thing you forgot to ask me last -- last Friday? (much laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. You gave us a little too much then.

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to give you the same answer I would have given last Friday -- it's all right: ask the Navy Department.

Q. Mr. President, when you were in the Navy Department as -- as part of the -- as Assistant Secretary, I was not a newspaperman, but if my mind serves me right, at that time you supported President Roosevelt on the League of Nations -- (much laughter) ---

Q. (interjecting) President Wilson.

Q. (continuing) --- President Wilson. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: All right now. We have got it straight. You are all right. (more laughter)

Q. (continuing) Well, I wonder if you could say anything as to what you think about that now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I was quite right



in supporting it at the time.

Q. How do you feel about it now?

THE PRESIDENT: About a new League of Nations?

Q. Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know that we are working toward a -- a unity of the United Nations toward the prevention, if we can humanly help it, of another World War. Of course, we were -- it was a new experience for us in those days -- brand new. It was going to be a war to end wars, and through this altruistic unity of all the nations, of which we were going to be part and hoped that there would never be any more wars.

Well, you are older than you were then. Probably, in those days, you would have been in favor of the theory of ending all wars. Today, we are -- we are a little older -- have gone through some pretty rough times together. And perhaps we are not saying that we can devise a method of ending all wars for all time. Some of us -- I don't think I include myself in this -- are a little more cynical than we were then. Some of us -- and I don't think I include myself -- are a little more foolishly-minded domestically than we were when we were twenty-five years younger.

And so we have an objective today, and that is to join with the other nations of the world -- oh -- not in such a way that they would decide whether -- some other nation would decide whether we were to build a new dam on the Conestoga Creek, but for general -- general world peace in setting up some machinery of talking things over with other nations,



without taking away the independence of the United States in any shape, manner or form, or destroying -- what's the other word? -- the integrity of the United States in any shape, manner or form; with the objective of working so closely that if some nation in the world started to run amuck, or some combination of nations started to run amuck, and seeks to grab territory or invade its neighbors, that there would be a -- a unanimity of opinion that the time was to stop them before they got started; that is, all the other nations who weren't in with them.

And, in a sense, the League of Nations had that very, very great purpose. It got dreadfully involved in American politics, instead of being regarded as a nonpartisan subject.

And that is why, in this particular year, the Secretary of State and I have been working very closely together, and we have been working in conferences with the duly constituted constitutional machinery of Government, which in this case happens to be the Senators on the Foreign Affairs Committee -- four from each party. And, so far, the conversations from them have been conducted on the very high level of nonpartisanship. So far, they have worked very well.

And we have -- as the Secretary of State told you, I think -- we have been talking with Britain and -- and Russia about this plan which was evolved over here which, as I said, is a first draft. It will be modified, of course, before you get to a final draft. And we have also talked -- I talked, for instance, with the Generalissimo in Cairo along exactly



the same line. And that is where the thing stands today.

But let me emphasize that both the Secretary of State and I have been trying to look at this thing -- and, I think, the Senators -- in a spirit of nonpartisanship, thinking about a hundred and thirty -- thirty-five million Americans, and thinking about a great many small nations, as well as the bigger nations, who at this stage are directly involved.

After we get through talking -- what I call the first draft -- we will talk, of course, with all the other nations of the world.

Well now, that is as closely as you can describe what is happening at the present time. I can't tell you what necktie each of the people will be wearing on a given date, although I notice that tendency in the only afternoon paper I have seen, to begin asking questions of that kind.

Q. May I ask this, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. What you mean then, if I interpret what you said correctly, is that you are not following the pattern of the former League of Nations, but you are seeking for a new pattern ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, you can't ---

Q. (continuing) --- as applied to latter day questions?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can't follow the old pattern, because obviously conditions are entirely different from those days in 1919 -- entirely different.



Q. (interjecting) That's what I wanted.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We are proceeding with a good deal more experience than we had then on a 1944 pattern -- at least what we think is a 1944 pattern -- rather than a 1919 pattern.

Q. Mr. President, what about the holding of this forthcoming conference here? It will definitely be in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any conference. Who told you that?

Q. The conversations that Secretary Hull spoke of yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: The conversations? I could conduct a conversation with you over the telephone. He never said to anybody anything about a conference that I know of.

Q. A conference is implied in his statement then.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but then ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, Mr. Hull did say that Mr. Molotoff entered a resolution at Moscow which suggested that conversations be conducted at Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what he said, but a conversation doesn't have to be a conference.

Q. Right.

THE PRESIDENT: He doesn't say that. It doesn't imply that. We are proceeding in the easiest way, whatever that may happen to be. There may be a conference. I don't want to be tripped up later on, if we should have a



conference some day, somewhere. I don't want to have it said that there won't be any conference. I don't know. I haven't heard of any conference. I don't think Mr. Hull implied that.

Q. Mr. President, in his statement last night, Mr. Hull said that the plans that they were working on were in line with the Declaration of Moscow and the Connally Resolution, and with the declaration which he said today included ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, ---

Q. (continuing) --- the Mackinac declaration.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, sure.

Q. (continuing) In your purview -- in your view of the thing, does this plan that Mr. Hull has fall with inside the outline of the Mackinac declaration?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are getting us into politics -- pretty close to it -- awfully close. I don't know. I suppose we might take an exceedingly good editorial out of -- what? -- the Evening Star. That might enter into it. Or any other paper -- that's the one that happens to be in front of me. But take that, anything that bears on the subject, including -- including even the -- the suggestions that come from entirely outside sources, because we want to cover the whole ground -- including even suggestions from what "T.R." would have called the "lunatic fringe." You sometimes find something pretty good in the lunatic fringe. In fact, we have got as -- as part of our social and economic government today a whole lot of things which in my boyhood were considered lunatic fringe, and yet they are part of everyday life.



I can imagine, for example -- No -- I guess I won't say it -- it's all right -- it might be considered from the political angle. (laughter)

Q. Well, Mr. President, the big question then, in everybody's mind apparently, is whether or not this thing would meet before the war ends or after the war?

THE PRESIDENT: Will you tell me, please, what difference it makes whether it meets before the war ends or afterwards? That's an awful hard question to answer.

Q. Mr. President, have you ever decided or found a better name for the war? You were seeking one. Have you found a new one?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there was -- somebody suggested it to me about two or three weeks ago, and I thought rather well of it. Could be called "The Tyrants' War." It comes pretty close to being a tyrant's war.

Q. Mr. President, do you want this foreign policy matter eliminated from the 1944 campaign? Is that what you have in mind, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you see, the trouble is that I don't control all the newspapers of the United States, so it doesn't make much difference whether I would like it or not. (laughter) Is that a fair answer?

Q. I had in mind the Republican Party, Mr. President. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I see you are getting into politics again, and the whole basis of this thing, so far,



has been going along on an amazingly effective nonpartisan basis, and I don't want you or anybody else to go and gum the works intentionally.

Q. Mr. President, has there been any change in our relations with Spain?

THE PRESIDENT: In what?

Q. In our relationship with Spain? Or is there any comment that you could make upon it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I should say essentially none, but I don't think that I would try to make an international episode of it, because it might hurt the war. And I don't think there's anything that I could contribute, except the fact that we are working along -- might almost say from day to day.

I don't think that any of us are satisfied with what Spain -- the government of Spain has been doing. Certainly, as long as we have been in the war, they have been sending an awful lot of stuff to Germany, and now the amount of that stuff -- the total of the stuff has been cut down very, very materially. But, in my judgment -- not enough yet.

Q. Mr. President, the Senate Banking and Currency Committee has approved several amendments to the O.P.A. extension act, which evidently is designed to raise the prices of some basic commodities and also textiles. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What were the articles?

Q. Congress would have set up an escalator clause requiring the O.P.A. to raise the price of textiles as the



price of raw cotton goes up.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't seen it. I can't comment on it, except it does carry me back to the days back in -- what? -- in 1933 or 4, when I went down to the Oglethorpe celebration -- General Oglethorpe -- in Savannah.

And the Governor of Georgia at that particular time got up and introduced me, and he made a great speech. And he says, "What we want in the South is 35-cent cotton." It had been selling in March or some time at the end of 1932, beginning of 1933, about four-and-a-half cents a pound. And it got up to about, I think, eleven cents a pound. And as you remember, that was one of the origins of the word "parity." The farmers throughout the country at that time were -- through their Members of the House and Senate -- pleading for parity, so that they could get what they -- what their returns were from their agricultural products up to a relatively even purchasing power with things that were made in factories.

And he went on and said, "We want 35-cent cotton." That was the price of cotton in the first World War. Well, at that particular time, parity for cotton would have been 14 cents; and after four or five years we did get it up to 14 cents, with the various other gadgets that were put onto the various bills from the Congress, and the farmer was getting approximately his 14 cents for cotton. Cotton now is, as I remember it, about 22 cents? (looking in the general direction of the couch)

MR. DANIELS: I think that's right, Mr. President.



THE PRESIDENT: I think around 21 -- 22 cents. And, of course, the price of other things that the farmer uses has gone up, but cotton is certainly at parity at the present time, and relatively -- maybe slightly above, for all I know.

And when I replied to the Governor of Georgia, I started off by saying that I was "agin" -- eternally and irrevocably against 35-cent cotton, which at that time would have been about three times over the parity price.

Well, it's the same old thing, anything that you grow. Well, I grow -- I grow lumber. I am getting twenty-nine dollars a thousand -- which is pretty good -- a thousand board feet. Of course, thinking personally, and selfishly, I would like to see lumber selling at seventy-nine dollars a thousand. Well, we have all got that streak in us. If you pick out cotton, you will have somebody else on your neck, and then -- then you will get inflation. But if you do it for one -- I suppose one out of ten -- you ought to do it for almost anything that grows.

Substantially, the price that asparagus and some other things bring is a pretty good price, and I know it has made the cost of buying asparagus in the White House awfully high. This is the asparagus season.

Which reminds me of a friend of mine, a foreman of one of the substantial trades, who came in last January, and said to me, "I have an awful time when I go home." He says, "My old lady is ready to hit me over the head with the dishpan."



I said, "What's the trouble?"

"The cost of living."

"Well," I said, "what, for instance?"

"Well, last night I went home, and the old lady said, 'What's this? I went out to buy some asparagus, and do you see what I got? I got five sticks. There it is. A dollar and a quarter! It's an outrage.'"

Well, I looked at him, and I said, "Since when have you been buying asparagus in January -- fresh asparagus?"

"Oh," he said, "I never thought of that."

"Well," I said, "tell that to the old lady, with my compliments."

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, is that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You get a lot of that.

Q. (continuing) -- is that the same foreman who bought the strawberries in the winter? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It happened to be a different one, but it's all right. Still marks a true story.

Q. I just wondered if it was the same man that came in then. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, getting back to that former question of mine about the League, do you have a program that you want to submit or that you will submit, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: To what? On what?

Q. On any organization of our United Nations postwar ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh Yes. O Heavens,



Yes.

Q. You do have a program?

THE PRESIDENT: That's what Mr. Hull and I both have been talking to the Senators about.

Q. Well, you haven't submitted it to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, because it's in the first draft stage. May be tremendously improved before we give it out.

Q. Points, sir? Or do you get away from points?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Are there points, or do you get away from them?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean like the Fourteen Points? Oh, No -- Oh, No. This is an organization. Things like points, well, are principles. This is a working organization that we are talking about -- got that far.

Q. Would the President's clearance for this apply to the plan for the organization itself, or merely for the process of putting it up to the Big Four at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: We are putting up -- we are putting up a first draft of the plan, with definite objectives and a method of carrying them out.

Q. Would it take in the Senate -- submit it to the Senate as to whether they are bound irrevocably ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now you are waxing political, if you start -- if you start making people sign things when they have got only a first draft. We want them to -- to go along with the general idea for the peace of the



world. And, so far, they like the idea.

Q. In other words, then, Mr. President, you don't find any willful men, do you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I never have.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I have known some awful fools in my life, and I have been sorry for some people in my life, but I don't hate. (laughter) And that is an interesting thing to some of you people. It's rather -- it's rather interesting how many people in -- some of them in this room, I think, have talked about how I hate this person, or hate that person, or a feud, or an awful row between so-and-so and me. It just isn't true. It's what -- it's what -- well, I won't characterize it. You know. I don't hate people -- especially on Memorial Day. (more laughter) Some of them are dead that I "hated." (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there has been considerable agitation recently for this establishment of the -- what have been termed free ports for Jewish refugees in this country. What is your reaction to this proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: I like -- I like the -- I don't like the name, but I like the idea, and we are working on it now. And well, when you said "this country," I'd take those two words out, because it is not, in my judgment, necessary to decide that we have to have a free port right here in the United States. There are lots of other places in the world where refugees conceivably could go to.



Q. Mr. President, one more question on the point that we were talking, over the security organization. You said at our last conference that you hoped to see Mr. Churchill in the near future ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, ---

Q. (continuing) --- or in the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- between now -- between now and next January 20th. (laughter) I made an unfortunate slip. (more laughter)

Q. (interposing) What was in your mind when you said "late spring"?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I made an unfortunate slip. I said "next spring." I'd like to see him next spring, regardless. Just the same way I created the perfectly terrific calendar dispute as to -- as to what the word "summer" meant. "This summer," to some people, they say that it's the 20th of June. Technically that is correct, but in ordinary conversation a fellow who takes his family off somewhere for the summer, very often does it before the 20th of June, but he calls it "for the summer."

I don't -- I didn't mean to be technical, and I apologize for what you thought, or just what the word "summer" means. I have always thought of June, July and August as summer months. Some people would say July, August and September. I don't know. (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, my question was: do you believe that your meeting with Mr. Churchill might be in time to



take up this question of the world security organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it will -- it's happening now.  
It has started.

Q. Mr. President, have you any plans for a radio address in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Thinking it over.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Yes, thank you, sir.

Q. I didn't forget anything today. (laughter)

Q. You caught everything.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. You caught everything.

(more laughter)



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #953  
Executive Office of the President  
June 2, 1944 -- 11.17 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) I think Merriman Smith has a report for you as the first order of business.

THE PRESIDENT: Really? Serious?

MR. EARLY: Yes sir. I haven't had a chance to tell you.

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to have another report.

MR. EARLY: He has got one for you. Let his be first, please.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. I have got another one this morning -- it's May Craig's annual report on her stewardship. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Mr. President, before we get down ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing, playfully) The meeting will be in order! (laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: Before we ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing again) The first report in the order of business is the formal report of Merriman Smith! (more laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: Before we get down to business today, we desire to recall that at the dinner this year -- our dinner for you -- we said that the proceeds would go to the infantile paralysis fund; and we have been several months getting the



definition of "proceeds" out of Paul Wootton -- (laughter) -- but we finally got ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I thought he represented business papers! (much laughter)

MR. GODWIN: He does.

MERRIMAN SMITH: But his definition this year is the same as it was last year, a thousand dollars -- (here handing the President a check) -- and we are very happy ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's perfectly grand. Perfectly fine. Well, the dinner -- the dinner certainly was worth it. It was all right.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we can -- later some other year -- move it down to Warm Springs and hold it for the papers. That would be a very effective thing.

Q. We are ready any time, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What? That's all right. (more laughter) Well, if I went, you would get there anyway. I think we ought to take Paul Wootton too.

Q. To do the bookkeeping.

Q. Will that be for us in 1945, Mr. President?

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) There's old "picayune" again.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the other one -- I don't think the proceeds will be as much, but we are due for a report from May Craig who, I understand, has just finished a very successful year in office, and is about to turn the gavel over to



somebody else. Will you report?

MAY CRAIG: (after a pause) Well, Mr. President, I feel that perhaps my best efforts have been here rather than in the forum of the crowd. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I understand it has been pretty good in both places. It's all right.

The third order of business was what Steve gave me, a not very exciting memorandum, but it should be made a part of the record. You are going to have copies ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Yes sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- outside afterwards? This is from (Leo T.) Crowley, F.E.A. (Foreign Economic Administrator), in regard to planes. On export planes.

(reading, not literally): "in the 91 days -- or first three months -- January first to April first, a total of 4,400 planes -- you will get all this outside -- was sent to our Allies from the United States. This means that on the average 338 planes were shipped or flown every week to fighting forces allied with our own against our common enemies on battle fronts around the world."

And it's a very inclusive list of countries that got these planes.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Between March 11, 1941, when the Lend-Lease Act was passed, and April first, 1944 -- which is nearly three years -- more than 33,000 planes have been sent from the United States to the forces of the other United Nations. The Allies paid cash for 7,000 of



the planes. The remaining 26,000 were sent under Lend-Lease. Many thousands were ferried all the way by air from the factories to the battle fronts.

"During the same period -- nearly three years -- the United States produced over -- what is it? -- No, it's over three years -- Yes, over three years -- produced over 175,000 planes."

Which leads me to think of something: some of the stories that were written and some of the speeches that were made, when I announced to the Congress that I wanted a plane program of fifty thousand planes. The -- the "doubting Thomases" -- people who said "it can't be done," "it's a political gesture," and so forth and so on.

(continuing reading, not literally): "We thus retained for our own part of the combined United Nations war effort more than four-fifths of the planes we produced, while sending very large numbers to our Allies. Through Lend-Lease, we have seen to it that the men who fight beside Americans, in the offensives already under way and in the still greater offensives that are ahead, we have the extra striking power they need to deliver the most damaging possible blows against the Germans and the Japs."

That's all on that. I can't think of anything else.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you asked at that time for fifty thousand planes and fifty thousand tanks a year in that speech you made to Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.



MR. GODWIN: Hasn't that been exceeded?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh yes, tremendously. This year -- I don't know who can tell me here. My recollection is that during the past year it has been over a hundred thousand.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your conference yesterday with Secretary (of the Interior) Ickes and Senator (Francis) Maloney?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it was a question of telling them about the progress that is being made as a result of the oil conferences with Britain. Now, don't call it pipeline, because nobody knows yet whether there will be any pipeline, or who would pay for a pipeline if there were. In other words, it's entirely in the "iffy" stage about the pipeline, but this is the development of oil resources in that section of the world, the Near East, and they are getting along very well.

Q. Mr. President, putting that pipeline so distinctly in the "iffy" stage seems to be a step backward. When Mr. Ickes announced his plans, it wasn't in any "iffy" stage, he was preparing to go ahead and negotiate a contract. Does that mean that there has been a change in that direction of events?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because the British have conferred with us. It hasn't been given up by any means.

Q. There was a report that Mr. Maloney demanded from Mr. Ickes assurance that he would not go ahead until his -- Maloney's -- committee had a chance to look further into



it. Did that matter come up at your talk?

THE PRESIDENT: Only this fact, that we are still talking with the British on it. No report yet, because we are still conversing on both questions as to whether the pipeline should be started at once, and if so who would build it, and how.

Q. There has been a commercial report, Mr. President, in the trade, that Cal-Tex, the combined company that owns -- that has a concession in Arabia, have or are considering selling to the British. Is that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh no. It will be here anyway. Nothing in that. Oh no.

Q. They are definitely hanging on to what they have?

THE PRESIDENT: You bet they are.

Q. Mr. President, this is a hold-over question from the last press conference, when we were discussing foreign policy and you mentioned the words "independence" and "integrity."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I wanted to ask you then, and couldn't get the question in, whether you regarded those two words as synonymous with the word "sovereignty" that seems to figure so largely in this question?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, I never thought of that, that poser. I would have to consult the dictionary. I don't know why not. I think "independence" -- everybody knows what it means. And "integrity" -- I think most people know what it means. And I think they know what "sovereignty" means. I



would have to do a lot of thinking over that. I don't get the point yet.

Q. That seems to be the word that the international lawyers use. I -- I don't know -- don't have any idea whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I think you can assume one thing, and that is that I am still in -- as much in favor of the sovereignty of the United States as I ever have been, which means just as much as you are, or anybody else in this room.

Q. Mr. President, there has been some considerable confusion on what you said at your last press conference on the subject of temporary havens for refugees. Did you mean that you like the idea of setting up such havens in other countries, but not in this one, or did you mean that you liked the idea of setting them up both in this and other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: All right, I will ask you a question. If you had -- if you had a very, very large number of refugees, and found that you could take care of some of them over here at the cost of a long sea voyage hither, and a long return sea voyage, wouldn't you as a practical business man like to take some of them over here, and avoid both those sea voyages for some of the others? In other words, isn't it a question of common sense?

There are some of them coming over here without any question, but if we can prevent having those -- having -- making them take those two sea voyages by putting some of them



in some other place, well, they won't have to take the sea voyage. That is common sense too.

Nothing that I said precluded them from coming over here, and nothing that I said meant that all of them would be put into refugee camps somewhere else. In other words, the rule of common sense, rather than carping, I think should prevail.

Q. Could you tell us what progress was made in this direction at your conference with Mr. (Henry) Morgenthau (Secretary of the Treasury) and Mr. (John) Pehle (War Refugee Board)?

THE PRESIDENT: We got on awfully well. It is still in the study stage. I will give you a practical example. We are still studying with the Army -- Mr. Pehle is -- the possibility of taking one of the Army camps in this country which the Army doesn't need. Of course, we are not training as many new people as we were a year ago, and maybe we can find an Army camp over here which we could turn into a refugee camp. And Mr. Pehle was looking that up yesterday.

Also, we are examining into the other phase, as to whether we can find some places on the other side of the ocean. Well, for instance, I suggested one or two places. There is a place called Taormina, which used to be, in the early days, the great resort on the east coast of Sicily, and quite a lot of -- quite a lot of hotels there. I don't know, off-hand, what the number of people -- refugees -- would be that could be taken care of there. There is another place that I suggested, and



that was Cyrenaica, which is an Italian winter resort, and there are quite a lot of hotels in Cyrenaica. But probably there are others down in the Mediterranean area. That is being studied.

Q. Mr. President, do I understand that these refugees will be -- would be given temporary haven; that is, they would be given haven until after the war, and then they would be returned ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh yes.

Q. (continuing) --- to their countries?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, absolutely.

Q. Wouldn't stay here -- not as citizens?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Not a bit.

Q. Sir -- Mr. President, is that the "free port" idea, which would allow the refugees to come in for this temporary residence, regardless of quotas and visas?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's it. If you have some starving and perfectly helpless people -- after all, they are human beings -- and we can give them -- what? -- the assurance of life somewhere else, it seems like it's the humanitarian thing to do. I know the word "humanitarian" is being laughed at very much these days, but I think that if there are starving people, it's a humanitarian thing to keep -- keep life in them anywhere in the world until this war is over, and they can either go back home or find a home somewhere else.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment to make on appropriation of our share of the UNRRA fund? (United



Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration)

THE PRESIDENT: Do what?

Q. To appropriate our share of the fund for UNRRA?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I hope to goodness we will get some appropriations through. Quite a number of other nations have already appropriated their share. After all, it was -- it was our suggestion to take care of humanity.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, has there been any name set for this new United Nations organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Any more what?

Q. Any name for this new United Nations organization -- League of Nations?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of Lend-Lease, there was an interesting Latin American angle in the reports that come from two countries that have had revolutions lately, and in both cases one side or the other used Lend-Lease equipment, particularly tanks, from the United States. Do you know, sir, if Lend-Lease equipment is continuing to go to Latin America, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I couldn't tell you.

Q. (continuing) --- or do you feel that the time has come when it might be cut off?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you, because I know nothing about the subject.

Q. Mr. President, what appropriation would take



care of the refugees who are brought here to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know, Paul (Leach); you had probably better look that up. I suppose UNRRA. I don't know.

Q. (interposing) That has not been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It might be Army. There is one -- you see, the military end of it is involved in this. They got -- recently the other day -- I don't know whether this particular figure has been given out -- on the Adriatic coast, that section around Bari in Italy, last week they had something like eighteen hundred refugees come in during that one week. Well, it's an awful problem for the Army to take care of them right there in the fighting zone. They have to be got out of that fighting zone, not only for their own safety but for the efficiency of the Army -- takes too many people to look after them.

Now, I don't know. You had better check on that. Ask Pehle who would -- who would pay for it.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us why Dr. (William) Leiserson was over here yesterday -- the N.M.B.?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. We have got a story for you very soon.

Q. Mr. President, there has been considerable discussion both on and off the Hill about the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. There have been some charges that the Administration hasn't given active support to it. Would you care to comment on ---



THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I would like to have some suggestions as to how I could give more active support to it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

MR. GODWIN: That's all right. That last answer was all right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Sure.

(laughter)



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #954  
Executive Office of the President  
June 6, 1944 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

(the invasion of Western Europe by Allied Forces began today, with landings in the north of France)

(the President called in the Administrative Assistants and Secretaries, and so forth, to make themselves comfortable around his desk, before the press came in)

THE PRESIDENT: (as they filed in) My Lord! -- all smiles -- all smiles. Look at these two coming in! (laughter)

MR. DANIELS: You don't look like you're so solemn yourself, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not so solemn, I suppose. Where's "Pa"? And, where's Steve? (then upon seeing him) Have you got anything for me?

MR. EARLY: Several suggestions, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What? (to those on the couch): He's always full of suggestions, and he always gets turned down. Doesn't make any difference. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: I'm used to it. I didn't know you were all here so quickly.



(Mr. Early then conferred with the President for several minutes)

THE PRESIDENT: All right, Charlie (Fredericks), bring in the "wolves." (laughter) (then seeing Grace Tully and Dorothy Brady standing against the wall): You're going to get "squished" there.

MR. EARLY: "Three hundred" of them (waiting to come in). (so they came and sat in the circle around the President's desk)

(long pause here, as the newspapermen filed in quickly and silently. The President pulled at his sleeves to go to work on the material before him)

MR. GODWIN: (to Fala, disporting himself on his back) How do you do?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Have you got Fala?

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Is he?

MR. GODWIN: Fala.

MR. EARLY: Haven't you got a dog, Earl? Earl, have you got a dog?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, she's "sassy." This one is okay. A lady, though.

Q. Everybody's here. Everybody's here.



MR. EARLY: Doesn't happen often.

Q. What?

MR. EARLY: Don't have many of them.

Q. No.

MR. EARLY: Hello, Fala.

MR. GODWIN: (fondling him) He's a peach.

THE PRESIDENT: I see the room is filling up.

Q. Awfully good house today. (181 present)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Awfully good house today.

MR. EARLY: It's going to be jammed.

THE PRESIDENT: I see you let the ladies come in.

Q. Very few.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. A few.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's awfully nice of you --  
awfully nice. (laughter)

Q. Like to have them around -- they're decorative.

MAY CRAIG: Ask Merriman why he didn't answer my letter.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think this is a very happy conference today. Looking at the rows of you coming in, you have the same expressions as the anonymous and silent people this side of the desk who came in just before you -- before you -- all smiles!



I have very little more news that I can tell you than what you all got in your offices.

I think it's all right to use this, which has not been published yet. It came in a dispatch from Eisenhower on the progress of the operations, as of about 12 o'clock today. The American naval losses were two destroyers and one LST. And the losses incident to the air landing were relatively light -- about one percent.

Q. That's the air-borne troops, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, air losses as a whole.

And, of course, there's a great deal of reports coming in all the time, but it's being given out over there just as fast as it possibly can. I think the arrangements seem to be going all right. I think that's all that I have over here. You are getting it just as fast as we are.

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about the progress of the invasion?

THE PRESIDENT: Up to schedule. And, as the Prime Minister said, "That's a mouthful." (laughter)

Q. May we quote "up to schedule"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, could you now tell us how closely held this secret was, or how many people were in on the actual "know"?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You would have to ask in London. Over here, there were relatively few. When I



say relatively few, of course, a great many people in both the War Department and the Navy Department knew that we were sending very large forces over to the other side. A very small number knew the actual timing.

Q. That is what I refer to.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- very few.

Q. On the fingers of your hand, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wouldn't say that. It must have been more than that, but not very much more.

Q. Mr. President, how long have you known that this was the date?

THE PRESIDENT: I have known since -- (pausing) -- I am trying to think back -- I would say Teheran, which was last December, that the approximate date would be the end of May or the very first few days of -- of June. And I have known the exact date just within the past few days.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I knew last night, when I was doing that broadcast on Rome, that the troops were actually in the boats -- in the vessels -- on the way across.

MR. GODWIN: May I ask a question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: It -- I was wondering if you could explain what were the elements entering into the consideration as far back as Teheran that would lead military leaders to be able to choose a date which seems to be quite far in advance -- quite far ahead?



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MR. GODWIN: It -- I was wondering if you could explain what were the elements entering into the consideration as far back as Teheran that would lead military leaders to be able to choose a date which seems to be quite far in advance -- quite far ahead?



THE PRESIDENT: Did you ever cross the English Channel?

MR. GODWIN: Never been across the English Channel.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Never been across the English Channel.

THE PRESIDENT: You're very lucky.

MR. GODWIN: Tide? Is it largely a question of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Roughness in the English Channel, which has always been considered by passengers one of the greatest trials of life, to have to cross the English Channel. And, of course, they have a record of the -- of the wind and the sea in the English Channel; and one of the greatly desirable and absolutely essential things is to have relatively small -- small-boat weather, as we call it, to get people actually onto the beach. And such weather doesn't begin much before May.

Q. Well, was weather the factor, sir, in delaying from the end of May until the first week in June?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. There was only actually, after the June date was set, there was only an actual delay of one day.

Q. Mr. President, was it timed to fall -- to come after the fall of Rome?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because we didn't know when Rome was going to fall.

Q. Mr. President, you said only one day after the time -- was it postponed one day?



THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. That was the weather consideration again?

THE PRESIDENT: That was the consideration.

Q. Mr. President, that May you talked about, last May or June, was that when Mr. Churchill was here?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I didn't talk about last May or June.

Q. He misunderstood.

Q. He misunderstood you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

THE QUESTIONER: Oh.

THE PRESIDENT: This May or June. But, of course, you have all seen the -- and you will see increasingly the reasons why, at the behest of politicians and others, we didn't institute a second front a year ago when they began clamoring for it; because their plea for an immediate second front last year reminds me a good deal of that famous editor and statesman who said years ago, before most of you were born, about -- during the Wilson administration, "I am not worried about the defense of America. If we are threatened, a million men will spring to arms overnight." And, of course, somebody said, "What kind of arms? If you can't arm them, then what's the good of their springing to something that 'ain't' there?"

Well, it will be shown that the preparations for this particular operation were far bigger and far more difficult than anybody except the military could possibly determine beforehand. We have done it just as fast as we possibly



could. The thing came up -- of course, it enters into the general, the highest strategy of the war -- oh, back the first time that we have held a conference of the combined staffs, which was in late December 1941, and early January 1942. Why, we took up the question of a second front -- of course we did. And we have been taking it up at every conference in the meantime. But there were so many other things that had to be done, and so little in the way of trained troops and munitions to do it with, we have had to wait to do it the very first chance we got. Well, this goes back, this particular operation, to -- all the way back to December 1941, and it came to a head -- the final determination -- in Cairo and Teheran. I think it is safe to say that.

Q. Mr. President, isn't there another factor, that in the last six months it has given you a chance to double the invasion force?

THE PRESIDENT: Double the what?

Q. The invasion force, the last six months of the time?

THE PRESIDENT: I would hate to say that categorically, because I haven't got the exact figures, Jim (Wright); but, of course, it has made a great deal of difference. We know that it has meant that a great many more divisions, and a great many more especially landing craft have been made possible. We couldn't have done it six months ago, because we didn't have enough landing craft.

Q. Mr. President, how much in advance of the



time that was originally set did it become apparent that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That what?

Q. (continuing) How soon did it become apparent that the one day delay would be necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that -- that was apparent when it was first talked of. That has always been a factor.

Q. I mean, how long a ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Only God can tell when it is going to be smooth enough.

Q. I mean, was an hour set and then had to be canceled? How long ahead of time was that canceled?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. Of course, that happened over there, but it was a very short time. It depended on the very latest reports on the weather -- may have been only half an hour.

Q. Mr. President, did you say one-seventh of the losses in paratroopers, or one-seventh of those engaged ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q. One percent.

MR. EARLY: One percent.

Q. One percent.

Q. One.

Q. Air losses? That is total air losses, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Total air losses.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, in one broadcast from continental sources, this Seine estuary has also been



mentioned as a place where landings have taken place. Is it possible for you to say at this time whether or not there is any truth in that, or whether the landings have taken place other than the -- the Le Havre-Cherbourg area?

THE PRESIDENT: That I couldn't tell you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I mean, I won't tell you. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, does this one percent refer to aircraft or personnel?

THE PRESIDENT: Just air losses, that's all. That's all that has come through. I couldn't tell you.

Q. Mr. President, when the Paris broadcaster heard the first German report of the invasion, he said it couldn't be true, because you were going to London at the end of June. Was he altogether wrong? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am going to ask you, is that summer or spring? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, at Teheran you took this subject up, and as you know, there were constant cries from Russian sources, among them Mr. Willkie -- (laughter) -- demanding -- demanding ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) When did Wendell change his citizenship? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, I don't want to be too rough, but you know what I mean. There were constant ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, of course.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- you were aware of



that, and can you say whether or not Mr. Stalin was aware of what was going on?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Well, ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Marshal Stalin, for instance -- it seemed to come from there that Stalin was yelling for a second front ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not -- not after Teheran.

MR. GODWIN: Not after Teheran?

THE PRESIDENT: Not after Teheran.

MR. GODWIN: He understood thoroughly?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. Mr. Stalin's mind was entirely cleared up at Teheran, when he understood the problem of going across the Channel; and when this particular time was arrived at and agreed on at Teheran, he was entirely satisfied.

Q. Mr. President, when you said that the time was fixed at Teheran approximately, did the -- was the position also fixed at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: Was the what?

Q. The place -- point of attack?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh No. Oh No.

Q. When did that develop?

THE PRESIDENT: That was -- that was a matter which was -- well, I can't -- I can't tell you the exact date, but it was always open to change. In other words, may have been half a dozen different places.

Q. That is -- that was a matter of strategy?



THE PRESIDENT: A matter of strategy, Yes.

Q. Mr. President, may there still be a half-dozen different places?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh! What an awful question! You know they are all improper, highly improper. (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, on this date and point of attack then, as I understand it, that was all left up to the high command?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes.

Q. And has been decided comparatively recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Decided by General Eisenhower.

Q. Comparatively recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes -- Yes.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a long -- it's a long, long coast from Spain to Norway, you know.

Q. Mr. President, have there been any reports of cooperation with -- by the French underground in the invasion of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) With the underground? No.

Q. Nothing yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing yet.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It seems -- it seems probable -- I will have to -- don't -- don't quote me in any way on this, but in an area where there is fighting going on, the



chances are there are very few civilians in that area. We know -- we know, for example, that the Germans have been pushing the French population further and further to the rear. Whenever they got a chance they moved them out. So you can't get cooperation out of stones and dirt. I don't believe there are many people in there -- French people.

Q. Is that off the record, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, as long as you don't attribute it to me.

Q. Oh.

MR. GODWIN: This afternoon, the news from over there carries stories of orders to Norwegian underground members, indicating that something is going to happen, and that is unofficial; and the other is that the Russian army is about -- within forty-eight hours -- to deliver some terrific blow. I wondered if you had any news on either of those that you could tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: There's another improper question.

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, I just wondered about that.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) If I knew it, I couldn't tell you.

Q. Mr. President, some reports that have come in on the progress of operations did say that the Germans were taken by surprise tactically.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I don't know.



Perfectly frankly, I have no idea.

Q. They knew about the time and tide too, didn't they, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: They must have known whether it was raining or not. (much laughter)

Q. I should say.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the impact of this invasion on the home front -- the population here?

THE PRESIDENT: Here?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No. It has all been -- all been coming across the ocean. I haven't heard anything except ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that the whole country is tremendously thrilled; and I would say on that that I think that it is a very reasonable thrill, but that I hope very much that there will not be again too much over-confidence, because over-confidence destroys the war effort.

A fellow came in the other day whom I have known for quite a while -- near home -- and he had come -- oh, this was several months ago, at the time we took Sicily -- and he had had a mighty good job out on the Pacific coast. I don't know what he was -- a welder or something like that.

I said, "What are you doing back home?"

"Oh," he said, "the war's over. I am going to try and get a permanent job before everybody quits working on



munitions."

He just walked out, quit his job -- and he was a good man, he was a munitions worker -- because when we took Sicily he said to himself the war's over.

Now, that's the thing we have got to avoid in this country. The war isn't over by any means. This operation isn't over. You don't just land on a beach and walk through -- if you land successfully without breaking your leg -- walk through to Berlin. And the quicker this country understands it the better. Again, a question of learning a little geography.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us something of your hopes for the future on this great day?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what it is, it's win the war.

Q. What?

THE PRESIDENT: Win the war, and win it a hundred percent.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. (interposing) One last question, Mr. President. How are you feeling?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How are you feeling?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm feeling fine. I'm a little sleepy. (laughter)

Q. (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President.

(more laughter)



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #955  
Executive Office of the President  
June 9, 1944 -- 11.15 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got some fairly definite action on the problem of the refugees that we talked about Tuesday. They are coming in still, in very large numbers, into Italy, and they are interfering with military operations. Over eighteen hundred, last week, came into Italy from Yugoslavia alone. We are increasing the capacities of the camps, and probably adding some new camps from the -- in the Mediterranean area. For example, we are moving them actually out of Italy to camps in the Middle East, increasing the quota of the camps from twenty-five to forty thousand. You see, it's on a big scale. We have set up a camp near Casablanca to hold the refugees out of Spain, making -- and still engaged in -- a survey of finding additional havens in Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, Sicily and Cyprus.

In the meanwhile, we found that we had a camp which was not being used for training purposes on a big scale: Fort Ontario, New York -- this is just across the river from Oswego -- and we are going to bring over a thousand, that's all, to this country, to go into that camp -- Fort Oswego -- Fort Ontario.

Q. Mr. President, you said from Spain. Who are the refugees from Spain?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, all kinds. All kinds. A great many of them got out through France.



Q. Were they old Spanish loyalists?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. These are nearly all French.

Q. All French.

THE PRESIDENT: People who got down through France, and then finally got across into Spain.

Q. Mr. President, you mean one thousand is all that is going to be brought over into that new camp, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's all.

Q. (continuing) --- or brought over to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all. To this country.

MR. GODWIN: Sir, there is a flurry of legislation in Congress on this very subject, to open some of the ports to bring in refugees and these unfortunate people for the war, but not to interfere with the immigration quotas and to be returned after the war. Are you familiar with what Congressmen ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- are doing on that? Do you have anything to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I never heard of it.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, where are these people coming from that are coming to this new camp?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The Mediterranean area I suppose is the easiest way of putting it.

Then, the only other thing that I have, I think, is that on Monday, Admiral (Reymond) Fenard -- who is the senior officer of the French navy and has been here, as you know,



for some time -- came back from Algiers and brought me a message from General (Charles) de Gaulle, that if -- General de Gaulle wants to know if I would receive him if he came over here, and what would be a good date.

And I sent word back that I of course would be very glad to receive him. And I gave him two dates, one between the 22nd of June and the 30th of June; and if he couldn't come then, between the 6th of July and the 14th of July.

And Admiral Fenard went back with that message, and I haven't heard yet.

Q. Mr. President, have you any comment on the resignation of Jim Farley as State (Democratic) Chairman?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I just got it in the paper just a little while ago, Pete (Brandt).

Q. Mr. President, how is the war going?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, on the -- on the French front, the word this morning is exactly what has been printed. I should say we are making slow progress, but it is progress. The sea is a bit rougher. I think really that covers the whole thing.

Q. We haven't yet taken Caen, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We have not yet taken Caen?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had any notice of it.

Q. Mr. President, in view of the fact that the King of Italy has now signed over further powers to his son, can you now say anything about the details of the Italian armistice, which hitherto have been maintained a secret?



THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q. The details of the Italian armistice, which up to this point have been maintained a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't even know it had been maintained a secret. I thought everybody knew them. It's -- it's fairly long, about two -- two and a half pages. I think the boys over there can get it. I don't know why it should be kept a secret any longer.

Q. Fine.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record, but the situation, I think is a -- almost a new one in the history of kings. The King of Italy is still the King of Italy, but he isn't the King of Italy. (laughter) In other words, he's in but he's out. As I said, this is off the record. And the -- the Crown Prince has been made, I should think it is -- it is Lieutenant General of the Realm. Now, I never heard of one before -- (laughter) -- and apparently it means under their system that the cabinet resigns to him instead of to the King, and then he re- -- calls somebody to be Prime Minister. They are engaged in that at the present time. But it is -- it is a new situation. I haven't got the exact terms, but the King of Italy, as I say, is King of Italy, but he isn't King of Italy. He hasn't got any powers.

Q. Do you still -- still presume that Marshal Badoglio will resign as Prime Minister, to give an opportunity for the formation of a completely new cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

MR. GODWIN: Well, Mr. President, in the case of



the Italian people on the whole business, is it -- was it -- is it correct to understand that the Allies will not be satisfied until the people themselves make their choice?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

MR. GODWIN: Is that still the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Still the objective.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- correct? This might be an interim thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Self-expression.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

MR. EARLY: You are on the record now?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: On the record now?

THE PRESIDENT: What? All right. That is on the record. We want the people to have self-expression -- choose their own government.

Q. Do you have any comment on the action of Mississippi Democrats in voting to send uninstructed delegates ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't even -- I don't even know what it was, except that I read a headline, and that's enough.

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you would care to explain why you chose the particular dates you did for General de Gaulle's visit?

THE PRESIDENT: By what?

Q. What the consideration was that constituted selecting the particular dates you did for General de Gaulle's visit?



THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's the first available time I have got. That is literally all it is. I am going to be away -- you can't use this -- but I am going to be away a few days before the 22nd. I get back here about the 22nd. I am going away over the 4th of July, so I literally put down the first available dates I had.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: About six days after ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) There's a convention out there about that time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes; and there's an election next fall, and Christmas is coming too. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, are you prepared to announce the American delegates to the monetary conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Except in one instance, I -- I have got all the list, but we are waiting for one of the Houses to complete the list; and I don't -- I think it's more courteous to give them another 24 hours to select that one.

MR. GODWIN: Have you anything to say, sir, about the bill or legislation connected with the -- that court-martial matter ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It hasn't come to me yet.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- Kimmel and Short? Hasn't reached you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It may have come to me. It has been sent to Justice Department for recommendations and checks.



MR. GODWIN: Presumably has?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, can anything be said on De Gaulle's visit, that at that time there will be other nations represented here to straighten out ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- the French political situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh No. Just a message from him via Admiral Fenard to me, would I receive him if he came over, and when could I see him.

Q. Did that message, sir, say anything about possible subjects for discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all it was.

Q. Mr. President, getting back to the monetary conference, there will be representatives from each -- the Senate and the House?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Can you say how many, how large the delegation will be?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember -- this is pure recollection -- as I remember it, two from Senate and two from House. Is that right?

Q. Will there be Republicans on each of those?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. One Republican, one Democrat?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, the Congress has been asked to



approve the transfer of some small naval vessels to South America. Can you tell us if that is done principally in the interest of Brazil?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can't say Yes and you can't say No. In other words, we are helping all we can to build up the defense of the Americas -- of the Continent. At the present time, the Brazilian defense, we have had the most part in that, and the plans are furthest along in the case of Brazil. But it isn't exclusive to Brazil, it's the defense of the Continent.

Q. (interposing) Sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And at the present time, the -- the building up of Brazilian defenses is furthest along. That's the easiest way of putting it.

Q. Sir, could it be assumed that any country which is not enjoying Lend-Lease aid would not be a recipient of any of these vessels?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I frankly don't know.

Q. What I meant to say, sir, is would Argentina get them?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Would Argentina get any?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (laughing) You can't make much of a story out of that, because I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, on General de Gaulle's visit, will he stay in the White House, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about that?



Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #956  
Executive Office of the President  
June 9, 1944 -- 11.50 A.M., E.W.T.

(this conference was held for the  
National Conference of Business Paper  
Editors)

THE PRESIDENT: (as they filed in) Well, gentlemen,  
how are you?

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Just line up here any place.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad to see you back again.

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir. Here they are.

THE PRESIDENT: Got your watch on? (laughter)

MR. WOOTON: Yes. I can tell you what time it is.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Can you look over the top  
and see whether they are all in?

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: We had 181 in here the other day.

MR. WOOTON: Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly a record.

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir. We have got about ninety --  
about ninety.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, this is the group that gave  
me that watch, so I am going to be awfully nice to them on this  
occasion. (laughter) They have come down in the very early  
days of your administration.



THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, Steve and I got together, and we have been cooperating with business people covering you and the Federal officials. Whenever we have any difficulty getting a speaker, we just call up Steve and somehow or other it comes about.

THE PRESIDENT: He doesn't speak himself, does he?

MR. WOOTON: No, we never had Steve. We had Jimmy one time, and he did a wonderful job.

Well, Mr. President, this group, as you know -- we have about 200 million dollars of annual output now in goods and services, and their papers go to the people that produce that 200 million, and contribute that 200 million. So I really am proud of them. I think they are an important part of the population.

THE PRESIDENT: Very distinguished.

MR. WOOTON: We have no particular questions to ask you. The President did ask me to tell you that, because of the pressure of his time this morning, he was going to dispense with the usual handshaking. I told him we would be glad to cooperate in that way.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's good to see you, because last year you did better than you thought. When the watch was presented to Paul I didn't know, but I found out afterwards, that he couldn't tell time. (laughter) So you have made a real contribution to education. He -- he tells time awfully well by now.



MR. WOOTON: That's right, Mr. President. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's good to see you all again. I haven't thought of anything. I thought I could tell you a few things off the record.

Of course, -- well, -- for instance, Steve just came in to give me a thing that just arrived from Mr. Lubin, about our aircraft production. I just sort of remember -- I think some of us real old people remember a day when I went up to Congress and said I wanted -- I want -- we need for national defense 50 thousand airplanes in a year. Well, there was the most awful howl all over the country -- couldn't be done -- just couldn't be done.

Well, of course now, we are up to a hundred thousand a year, and we are keeping on going -- keeping on making -- making records. American industry has done a lot better than the non-business press thought it could do. (laughter)

The two-hundred-thousandth United States-financed airplane since July 1st 1940, was accepted on May 31st of this year, a year and three days after the acceptance of the one-hundred-thousandth -- which is pretty good. The first hundred thousand, as they say, is the hardest. (laughter) The first hundred thousand took 1431 days to build. The second hundred thousand took 369 days to build, approximately only a third as long. And in May, 8,851 were accepted. That -- that was actually two percent in numbers below the March peak.

But a thing that the layman doesn't understand,



which you will understand, is that the weight, 89 million pounds, is really the controlling factor; and that was one percent over March, which is again a new high.

The rest of the figures relate to different types, but just for example, we have -- just in one field of action -- we have 10 thousand planes -- American planes working. In another field of action we have over 5 thousand American planes. Now, they are operating planes. Of course, the figures vary from day to day, but that is an awful lot of planes that we have got overseas. I haven't got the figures for the other -- some of the other areas, but that is just two out of three or four different areas where we are operating planes.

Of course, the whole thing is going along awfully well. I hope that you are in touch with the Departments, and with Leo Crowley, about places where either there is a jam or we want more things.

Now, of course, one thing we have realized, and that is that with the development of warfare we discover new things all the time -- new construction. I don't suppose any one of us could have visioned three years ago the building of this vast number of landing craft, turning them out all over the place with all the things that go with landing craft. In the present operations in France, they have been badly bumped on the beaches. They sit down on top of a boulder, and the boulder comes through the bottom -- that sort of thing. Quite a lot of them have been damaged on the railroad rails that the Germans stuck down on the beaches; and sometimes, when they have



discharged their cargo on the beach and start to back up, they find -- they find they are sitting on the sharp end of a railroad rail. But, of course, a great many of them can be salvaged, but it means that of any particular construction, the -- the last three days show that we have got to speed it up, even some more. We thought we had speeded it up just as fast as we possibly could.

Things are going pretty well on the other side. The chief trouble is weather. The English Channel is not a pleasant place to cross. It's rough a great deal. As somebody remarked to me the other day, probably there has been more suffering -- human suffering on the English Channel than any other place in the world. (laughter)

And on the whole, things are going along pretty well. We have been doing awfully well north of Rome, since I spoke the other day. We are about 40 miles north of Rome. We have got the important seaport of Civitavecchia. Yet the whole operation -- the English Channel, and the Mediterranean -- Italy -- all tie in together, as we have come to understand.

I think the greatest contribution -- there is always a silver lining in every cloud that war makes -- is teaching people -- people geography. A lot of people now know in this country where Italy is. Now, that's quite an achievement. (laughter)

And of course, on the whole, I really think that we can feel encouraged, but we mustn't be over-optimistic.

I was telling -- I think I told the press the



other day -- I don't believe they used it. This fellow came back from the -- the coast -- a friend of mine came to see me.

I said, "What are you doing back home? I thought you had a good job?" I think he was a welder, or something like that.

"Oh," he said, "the war's over. I'm going back home to get -- to land a permanent job."

Well, we found -- we are troubled with things like that. It's a psychological thing. People coming back saying the war is over. Well, My Lord, the war is not over.

On the other hand, of course, we are trying to plan all we can on the reconversion of plants, which will be of interest to nearly all of you. I think we have -- the Executive end of things has done what -- all they could. They have made various recommendations to Congress for legislation, and nothing has yet come out of the hopper. So all that you can do, to encourage Congress to speed up a little on reconversion legislation, the better it is. We have done practically all that we can here. I don't know what will come out, but we would like to have something come out. So, if you can help on that, it's all to the good.

There are not many more things than that. Industry has done a perfectly splendid job. And we are doing all we can to think not only about the rest of the war, but about the -- the period after the war.

I don't know that there is anything else, Paul, that I can think of. Have you got any ideas I could talk about?



MR. WOOTON: Well, Mr. President, I think we have taken up all of your time that we should. It's just fine of you to see them. I know that they will -- they have been trying at every opportunity ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh Yes. That's good.

MR. WOOTON: (continuing) --- to put the heat on this and that as much as they can.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Sure, that's right.

MR. WOOTON: (continuing) They have helped to convert to war, and they will help to convert it back.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, fundamentally, the people are all right on it.

Steve mentioned this morning -- this is -- this is coming out when -- I am using it on Monday night when the Bond drive starts -- another little cheerful thing ahead -- (laughter) -- that is that there are around 55 million taxable people in this country -- income tax people -- and yet there are 81 million people in the country that are the owners of bonds.

That is a very extraordinary thing. Those people are thinking ahead. Where they have in one family maybe only one wage earner, but there are a number of children, bonds are being bought in the name of those children. Well, that is pretty good, to have 81 million people in the country holding war bonds. I think you won't have any trouble with this drive. We have got working for it an awfully good organization, with the help of business and the banks, as you know. I suppose it is the greatest money-raising organization in the world that we



have got today for the financing of the war.

It has been grand to see you. I wish I could think of something more exciting than what I have said.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, what you have said is very valuable, and we are very grateful to you indeed.

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to see you all. Fine, Paul, thanks.

MR. WOOTON: Goodbye, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine, fine.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #957  
Executive Office of the President  
June 13, 1944 -- 4.19 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Only got one book?

Q. Don't tell me we need more today?

THE PRESIDENT: You may need two. (laughter)

Q. It's too hot for that, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: You've got all night. (more laughter)

Q. Wait till it cools off.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you might be interested in part of a dispatch that came from Ambassador <sup>W.</sup> (Averell ~~W.~~) Harriman in Moscow -- comment that Marshal Stalin made to Ambassador Harriman about the landing in France.

Marshal Stalin said -- very short -- quote: "The history of war has never witnessed such a grandiose operation, an operation Napoleon himself had never even attempted."

Then I have a long thing, which you needn't take down, because Steve will give you copies -- of a report from Leo Crowley.

(reading, not literally): "A summary of the conclusions of the detailed investigations of Germany's ferro-alloy position, which have been made by the Foreign Economic Administration.

"1. One of the most significant developments in



Germany's war production is the growing vulnerability of her ferro-alloy position. Germany's supply of these alloys required in the manufacture of special steels essential for her production of shells, and tanks, and artillery and other finished munitions, as well as for her war plants, is showing signs of deterioration. This situation is developing as one after another the sources of these vital metals are being cut off through United States military -- United Nations military, political and economic action.

"2. Manganese and chrome are used in greater quantities than other alloys. With the Russian recapture of the Nikopol manganese deposits and the action of Turkey in stopping Chrome shipments, important Nazi sources of these metals have been eliminated. When the Balkan supplies to Germany are cut off by the United Nations armed forces the last substantial source of chrome and the principal remaining source of manganese will be gone.

"3. Tungsten is practically indispensable for tips on tools used in armament production and for projectile cores.

"Fourth. Spain has thus far stopped a portion of its tungsten exports to Germany. Further substantial reductions and absolute control of smuggling are necessary.

"5. Considerable quantities of tungsten were being shipped from Portugal to Germany, but Portugal has agreed to suspend these shipments.

"6. The importance of this suspension of Portugese shipments and of completely shutting off the remaining



Spanish shipments to the Nazis can be appreciated when it is kept in mind that during 1943 about 90% of Germany's tungsten supplies came from Spain and Portugal. So highly do the Germans prize this metal that they have even resorted to equipping U-boats as blockade runners in an attempt to bring in small quantities from the Far East.

"7. A substantial part of Germany's supply of nickel, molybdenum and cobalt is now coming from Finland. Cobalt is almost unique in bonding tungsten carbide in tool steels and shell cores."

I hope you know more about that than I do.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Nickel and molybdenum can be used to some extent to replace manganese and chrome in some steels. The shortages which the Nazis are experiencing -- experiencing in manganese and chrome have thus increased her dependence on nickel and molybdenum from Finland. The stoppage of these Finnish ferro-alloys from getting to Germany would help the United States -- United Nations.

"8. Norway is presently a major source of molybdenum for Germany.

"9. In the event that the Balkan supplies of chrome and manganese and the Norwegian supplies of molybdenum are cut off by combined military operations -- and the remaining Spanish tungsten supplies are eliminated through political and economic action -- it is estimated that Germany's war production would be materially affected within six months.

"I know that you will agree that this picture



should not be permitted to result in any slackening of the country's all-out effort through over-optimism, but rather should be the stimulus for renewed and greater efforts to shorten the conflict."

Then I have also got for you, outside, a report to me from General Eisenhower -- came in yesterday.

(reading, not literally): "On June 6th we initiated the first vital step leading to the decisive battle of Europe. The first great obstacle has been surmounted -- that is the breaching of the beach defenses that the enemy by lavish employment of enslaved labor had installed in -- in forest-like density along the entire lateral of north -- northwest Europe. Gallantry, fortitude and skill were called for, and these, in abundant measure, the entire Allied force has displayed since the opening day of the battle.

"A particularly satisfying feature of the fighting has been the fine performance of troops -- American, British, and Canadian -- committed to battle for the first time. Just as they did and are still doing in the Mediterranean, these untried Allied units have conducted themselves in a manner worthy of their more experienced comrades who conquered the German in Africa, Sicily, Italy.

"What is more important, complete unity between the air, ground and naval services has prevailed.

"Satisfactory as is the progress of this battle to date, in magnitude it is but a mere beginning to the tremendous struggles that must follow before final victory is achieved.



Although the cross-channel landing operation was attended by hazards and difficulties greater, I believe, than have ever before faced an invading army, this initial success has given us only a foothold upon northwestern France. Though -- through the opening thus made, and through others yet to come, the flood of our fighting strength must be poured. Our operations, vast and important as they are, are only part of the far larger pattern of a combined assault against the fortress of Germany by the great Russian armies from the East and our forces from the Mediterranean.

"The Nazis will be forced to fight throughout the perimeter of their stronghold, daily expending their dwindling resources until overwhelmed by the hopelessness of their position. To this end we need every man, every weapon, and all the courage and fortitude of our respective peoples. The Allied soldier will do his duty.

"Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Q. Mr. President, will copies of the General Eisenhower report be available, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: As soon as you go out. I think that's all.

Q. Mr. President, in connection with the message -- the comment of Marshal Stalin, and the Eisenhower statement, what can you say for us in the way of general comment about the ---



THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I talked ---

Q. (continuing) --- operations as of today?

THE PRESIDENT: I talked on that last night.

Q. I wondered if you had anything new?

THE PRESIDENT: It's still current. (laughter)

Q. Have you heard yet from General de Gaulle, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- as to when he will come?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Sir, Mr. Crowley mentions --in what you read to us -- mentions the desirability of cutting off manganese and chrome from the Balkans ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The what? I didn't get it.

Q. The desirability of cutting off manganese and chrome from the Balkans. Is there any indication as to how that might be accomplished?

THE PRESIDENT: By throwing the Germans out is the only way I know. (laughter)

Q. May we take it the same is true of Norway and Finland, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. May we take it that the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The same is true of Norway and Finland.

Q. Would the new Russian advance, sir, be predicated on the necessity of cutting off material from Finland?



THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. That's an "if" question, that I would have to ask Moscow about first, before I answered it.

Q. Mr. President, there seems to be some confusion as a result of your press conference statement at the last conference as to the Italian armistice terms. You said then you saw no reason for secrecy. The State Department passed the buck to the Army, and the Army says they see strong reason for the secrecy.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, after some inquiry about it, the answer is that the -- the military authorities still consider that for military security reasons it should not be given out at this time.

Q. Does that mean that it will be held a secret until the complete liberation of Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Until they decide it is not -- no longer a matter of necessary security.

Q. That is a matter of military security as contrasted with political security?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, there is a little bill still pending in the House that represents an effort to keep a manufacturer from commercializing the Red Cross emblem. Have you heard anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I have found out about it. The bill is S. 469. Passed the Senate, and will appear now before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, and discussions



are scheduled to begin tomorrow morning. They will meet in open session, so you can go up there and find out all about it. (laughter) Ask all the committees.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Is there any place we could go, Mr. President, to find out about your fourth term intentions? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) My what? (more laughter) Well, -- (in a whisper): I don't know! (continued laughter)

Q. (interposing) How about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I -- I want to be helpful, ---

Q. (interjecting) I think we would all appreciate it.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to enlighten you. So would I.

Q. How about the Democratic convention, sir? Would that be a good place to go to find out?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You are beginning to get a little over my head now. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, maybe you will tell us about your vice presidential intentions then?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think -- I don't know, maybe I could get you on a plane -- send you out to China -- the only thing I can think of.



Q. (interposing) The question I asked ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) If you want to go, Jim (Wright)?

Q. Yes, I would like to very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Get an application out -- try to get you out there. (more laughter)

Q. The question I asked was, there have been stories printed that you did have a talk on politics with Wallace before he left, and I wonder if that is true?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh! I was only talking to him about military operations in China! (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, Senator Hatch told the Senate today that you will be willing to retire to private life, if by that action you will thus obtain unification in American purposes behind peace aims; that you would be willing to retire, but the Democratic Party wouldn't permit you to do that. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I can't -- I can't comment on current Senatorial debate. (laughter)

There is one thing that none of you have asked about. If you don't ask it pretty soon, I will have to ask it myself. (more laughter)

There has been quite a discussion, as you know, in England and some over here, in regard to the issuing of currency for Europe -- in northern France. And people are so apt to go wrong on financial matters -- I know I am generally ---

MAY CRAIG: (aside) Aha! (laughter)



THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I might as well tell you the situation, because it ought to be printed straight.

When you go into a country, you have got to have something besides artillery and rifles and shells. It is always convenient for an army going into a -- another country to have a little cash in their pockets. We find it is really essential, for two reasons. The first is the soldiers themselves, and the other is the commanding officers -- certain things they find they can buy for their companies or regiments from the local people; and another reason is the usual desire of a soldier to buy a -- buy a souvenir, either to take home to his family, or to consume. (laughter)

And therefore, after consultation with the representatives of the French National Committee, who were in London, and with the British treasury, it was agreed that this special type of currency should be issued.

And they agreed, also, that there would be a -- a rate -- a ratio between this currency and the -- the franc. And by common consent, the rate was put at -- well, we might as well call it approximately 50 francs to a dollar, and 200 francs to the British pound sterling. There is no use telling you 49.566. Practically 50 francs to one United States dollar, and 200 francs to the British pound sterling. And these notes were printed by our own Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are very attractive to look at.

And they are being used by our Army and by the British army at the present moment. This very -- this very moment,



while we are standing here, some commodity may be changing hands via the francs that the British and American soldiers are -- are using.

They were issued to both the forces in accordance with instructions issued by the Combined Chiefs of Staff to General Eisenhower, and the instructions had behind them the authority of both governments.

They bear the legend "Emis en France" which means "issued in France." On the other side and on the back there is the Tricolor, and the words, "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité."

They are running in eight denominations, from two francs to five thousand francs. Well, the two-franc note is worth four cents in our currency. From there it goes up to five thousand francs.

Realizing the importance of obtaining responsible French views, representatives of the French Committee of National Liberation have been consulted on matters relating to the design and the making of the supplemental currency, which is -- we call it supplemental currency. You see, there isn't enough -- we have no assurance that there is enough currency floating around in France that we could get hold of, buy, or use. Probably -- it's a German edition, probably, anyway. The forces -- the Allied forces have to be supplied with some kind of currency to be used as they advance into France.

The French Committee requested that American and British currency be not used in France, for fairly obvious reasons: until they get a -- a substantial, well-ordered



government of their own in France, after the Germans have left.

And this was shipped to London, where it was held in readiness for D-Day.

Complete records are being kept, and detailed accounting procedures have been set up in connection with the use of this supplemental currency by the Allied military authorities.

So that there won't be any question about the legality of it, when the United States forces obtain this supplemental currency for expenditures normally charged to their appropriation, such as a portion of the soldier's pay, the relevant military appropriation will be charged for the dollar equivalent of such expenditures at the decreed rate of exchange.

Those proceedings ensure the retention by Congress of its control over expenditures of the United States military forces.

And the British forces are following parallel procedure.

Well, somebody asked the question, what is behind this currency?

The first thing that is behind it is the authority of the Allied armies. It is necessary for the advance into France that the currency be made available to the troops. In many respects, the currency is as essential to the advance of the troops as ammunition is. There are no means assured that there will be sufficient francs within the country for the purposes of the Army. The only alternative was to issue supplementary francs, or use our own currency. The French very much preferred that



we not use our own currency, as I said before, for obvious -- obvious reasons.

It is rather an interesting fact that during the first World War a very huge sum of money in American bills, that we paid to the troops, disappeared into the insides of French mattresses. Some of it would drift back to the Treasury each year. But at the outbreak of this war, there were still a good many million dollars in American currency that were inside French mattresses. Now, how much of that will -- the old, big bills -- (demonstrating) -- how much of that will turn up at the end of this war, I don't know. It's anybody's guess. So it became necessary for us to print these supplemental francs to have ready.

In due course, when a stable government is erected in France, arrangements can be made for dealing with this currency in a fair settlement, which will protect the interests of all concerned. Certainly, neither this Government nor the British government will institute measures which will result in cheating Frenchmen who, in accordance with the instructions of the Allied Commander-in-Chief, accept this currency in return for services or goods rendered to our troops.

Somebody may say, why wasn't this currency issued by the French instead of by General Eisenhower?

There was no recognized French authority within France in a position to issue currency for France -- it was all German-controlled. General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, is the only authority with the power to issue currency. Such



inherent power of a commander of an expeditionary force to issue currency is well recognized by international law. As soon as there is an appropriate French authority recognized by the Allied governments, we will of course fully accept any currency which it issues.

Is it true that our Army causes inflation in liberated areas?

The Army is taking every possible measure to reduce soldiers' expenditures in liberated areas.

And this is worth noting, I think, because I have had a great many letters from people who wanted to know, honestly, why we couldn't keep back a portion of the soldier's pay, so they wouldn't be floating around in a new liberated area with fifty dollars a month for the minimum, and cause inflation by having all this money on them.

Well, we have been working on that, and actually had it in effect for quite a long time. Soldiers are being pleaded with and encouraged to send as much money home as possible. They are being encouraged to buy war bonds, and facilities have been set up whereby the soldiers can transfer funds back to their families without inconvenience or red-tape.

We are supplying through the post exchange organizations the luxuries and semi-luxuries that soldiers want, such as candy, cigarettes, watches, and gifts that soldiers can send home, and things of that kind.

Furthermore, the Army has prohibited soldiers from buying rationed commodities or eating in public restaurants.



And the Army organization buys local produce through local authorities, only when the local authorities have certified that that produce is surplus and not needed for civilian requirements. In other words, any -- you can understand that -- any area which barely has enough food for its own population, we don't want an American or a British regiment turning up in town and eat them out of house and home. It just wouldn't work. So, we have pretty strict regulations about that. These efforts have been very successful in the North African, and Italian campaigns.

American officers and men spent only 16 and 3/10ths percent of their pay within the liberated area. In England it was 25 percent. Of course, the obvious reason: there was more to buy in England than in a liberated area like Tunis or Sicily or Italy.

Particular studies have been instituted here, and in London, regarding the measures which can be undertaken further to reduce the amount of money available to our soldiers in France, as well as other places.

The liberated countries need have no fear that our Army will be careless or unsympathetic to the distressed condition of the civilian population of those liberated areas.

Well, I think that covers it pretty well.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any comment on the various amendments to the Price Control bill which have been passed in the Senate, sir, and are being passed upon now in the House?



THE PRESIDENT: No, not now. I am not familiar enough with them.

Q. Mr. President, have you been informed by the governments of Belgium, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, and Poland that they have recognized General de Gaulle's Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Sir, is there any change in the attitude of this Government on -- towards the French Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Mr. President, in reference to the French National Committee as a representative as having approved of this currency set up, that means that General de Gaulle approved it also, does it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I did not use the word "approved." It was taken up with them, and as I understand it, various questions were raised and straightened out with the man in London, and no objection was made. Is that right, Jack?

MR. EARLY: Here also.

MR. JOHN J. McCLOY (Assistant Secretary of War, who was present): Here also. The Commissioner for Finance was here also.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Is that enough?

(laughter)



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #958  
Executive Office of the President  
June 23, 1944 -- 11.00 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Looking very smart this morning.

Q. Thank you, sir. So are you. (laughter)

VOICE: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there's very much news. The Chiefs of Staff came in yesterday -- Joint Chiefs of Staff -- and talked about the war and its various phases. We were all disappointed, I think, that we were unable to annihilate the Japanese fleet, for the simple reason that it ran away. It is rather difficult to destroy a fleet that runs away.

The Cherbourg operation is proceeding according to schedule.

I don't think there's much else.

I have got the names here -- Steve has got it for you outside -- of the American delegates to the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, which will open at Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, (New Hampshire), on July first.

Secretary Morgenthau; Director Fred Vinson; Assistant Secretary Dean Acheson; Edward Brown -- Edward E. Brown, President of the First National Bank of Chicago; Mr. Crowley, Administrator, F.E.A.; Marriner Eccles, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve; Miss Mabel Newcomer, Professor of Economics of Vassar College; Mr. Brent Spence, Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House; Senator



Tobey of the Senate Committee; Senator Wagner, Chairman of Banking and Currency; Mr. Jesse Wolcott -- Senator Wolcott -- No, Mr. Wolcott on the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House; and Mr. White -- Harry D. White, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I haven't got the names of all of the technical experts. That will come along in a few days.

I think that's all.

Oh, one thing I wanted -- I wanted to mention, to show how careful we all have to be in our English. The -- I got one or two protests from India, because in -- when I was on the radio about the capture of Rome, they claimed that I hadn't mentioned the Indian troops, and their feelings were rather hurt. As a matter of fact, I did. Question of terminology. I used the words "the French and French Moroccans, South Africans and Poles, and the East Indians."

Well, of course, the reason I put in "East Indians" was to distinguish them from the West Indians, and the Red Indians in our country. And the -- the word "Red Indian" -- "East Indians" was meant to include, of course, the British troops. They are the only Indian troops with the operation. They did a very, very good job. But I certainly intended to include them in the term "East Indian."

Q. Mr. President, are you considering a plan to make a public statement shortly after the Republican convention, expressing a willingness to abide by the mandate of the Democratic convention?



THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) That's the form it takes today, is it? (laughter)

Q. In the light of recent events, sir. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, Merriman (Smith), it won't work. (more laughter)

Q. Do I get anything for effort? (continued laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What? No. You will have to write down today: total failure.

Q. Mr. President, I see that General de Gaulle is appointing prefects and subprefects in the liberated areas. How will that work with the civil administration of General Eisenhower? What basis does it do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, Constantine (Brown), I think that you ought to go and study, not geography -- because you know that very well -- but something to do with military operations.

It has been very clear that on the liberation of Europe, a thing has to happen first of all, and that is the word liberation. You can't -- you can't take a hill half a mile away with your troops and immediately set up a civil administration in that battle zone. It is going to take a long time to eliminate the Germans from France. Things depend entirely on how the time-table works. The -- the -- geographically, the portion of France that has been liberated represents, I think, about one-tenth of the -- of one percent. Not one-tenth,



but one-tenth of one percent of the total area of France.

Let us liberate a little more of France before we take up the question of civil administration in France.

Q. I see that De Gaulle is not studying that part of military strategy himself, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. De Gaulle is not studying that part of military strategy himself, because he is appointing his men.

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, you ---

Q. (continuing) I am talking about the moral effect of it.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- you said that. I don't know whether he has or not. Maybe he has. I don't know. In other words, you have assumed something. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, has General de Gaulle said when he would come here?

THE PRESIDENT: No reason why I shouldn't tell you that. I have -- I have only had a very indirect message, and that was delivered through the French National Committee in London to Monsieur Hoppenot, who is on the -- head of the French mission here; and Monsieur Hoppenot took it to the Secretary of State, who sent it to me.

The message was, General De Gaulle hopes to come over here at one of the two times at which I told him I would be here and would be glad to see him.

The only other thing I have was -- is in a very roundabout way, through Algiers, that he had said to somebody



that he hoped to come the second period that I mentioned. The first period was the 22nd of June, which is today -- yesterday -- to the 30th; and the second period was the 6th of July to the 14th. But that is only indirect.

Q. Mr. President, might there be more light thrown on the dismissal of Minister (Hjalmar) Procope (of Finland) and his associates?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know how you can throw much more light on it.

Q. It was just simply phrased, "acts in- inimical"

---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That what?

Q. "Acts in- inimical" -- I'll get it out -- (laughter) -- "to this Government."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter)

Well, of course, there has been a lot written about that. Some people have written the question editorially, and commentators, that: is the foreign policy of the United States for sale for a hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars?

And the answer is No, it is not for sale.

And we have to remember, of course, that the present government of Finland is allied with a -- a common enemy, our enemy -- the enemy of Russia, and is fighting against our Ally, which is Russia.

Q. Mr. President, it was indicated, however, that this was individual to him and his associates.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.



Q. (interjecting) He was the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's what persona non grata means.

Q. Persona non grata. I wanted to know if there was anything you could say about what he had actually done?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Just persona non grata.

Q. Mr. President, this isn't just another "effort," but I would like to know, when you make your decision as to your own political future, would you make it alone or will you make it as a result of what some of your other friends ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I will have to hand you one. (laughter) You know, this is meant to be a press conference for news, it isn't a boudoir conference. (more laughter)

Q. My only interest is that you told us you would welcome political questions.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a boudoir question at the present time. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you anything to say about the Stabilization Act?

THE PRESIDENT: What Stabilization Act?

Q. The renewal by Congress of the Stabilization Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you mean ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) The price bill.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- the O.P.A. thing?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It hasn't come down yet.



(looking in Mr. Early's direction): I don't think it has actually got to the White House ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) No sir, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- yet; but when it comes I will of course talk it over with the various people -- O.P.A., and Fred Vinson, and Jimmy Byrnes, and a number of others -- probably in Cabinet; but the -- the bill hasn't physically arrived at the White House yet.

Q. Do you think the report released by your cost of living committee last night warrants any reconsideration of the wage stabilization policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you until I see it. You mean the bill?

Q. No, the report that was prepared by the three economists at the request ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't got it yet -- may be outside. It wasn't in here yesterday afternoon.

Q. Mr. President, have you any comment to make on the Italian political situation and this (Ivanoe) Bonomi cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have got -- this is off the record -- I have got a telegram this morning, which I hope to be able to give out; but I have got to consult the State Department first.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #959  
Executive Office of the President  
June 27, 1944 -- 4.12 p.m., e.w.t.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the Administrative Assistants et al filing in) I have arranged for you to have special seats in the "bleachers" right back of the "catcher," but I've got a wire screen between wild pitches, so it's all right, you're perfectly protected. (laughter) All ready.

(as the newspapermen came up to the desk) How is our friend liking it on the Hill? (Douglas Cornell of A.P.)

Q. Fine. Fine.

Q. He is out with those people in Chicago. (at the Republican National Convention)

THE PRESIDENT: Is he? (laughter) I suppose it will give him a chance for a holiday until the first of August. I think you did it deliberately.

Q. I do too. (more laughter)

Q. Got something for us to compete with on it today?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Got something for us to compete with today?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes. Steve is going to have photo-stats made of these things for you. (showing them facsimiles of two scrolls) Can't have it done in color -- you couldn't print them in color, anyway, but believe me it's a beautiful piece of work.

Q. Mr. (Adrian) Tolley (White House social room)



do that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Mr. Tolley do that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I think so.

VOICE: All in.

Q. (aside) (seeing a message in Chinese before the President) Chinese checkers!

THE PRESIDENT: I have a couple of things.

About a month ago, I sent over to Ambassador Harriman two scrolls, one to the City of Leningrad and one to the City of Stalingrad, which he has today presented to Marshal Stalin; and he telegraphs me that Marshal Stalin has replied in a very delightful way. And that reply will come to us some time tomorrow. It's on the wires, but it's probably being given out in Moscow today, so you may at your offices find a cable which could be tied in with this release that Steve has done for you.

The text of the scroll to the City of Leningrad -- you needn't take this down, you'll get it -- (reading, not literally): "In the name of the people of the United States of America, I present this scroll to the City of Leningrad as a memorial to its gallant soldiers and to its loyal men, women and children who, isolated from the rest of their nation by the invader and despite constant bombardment and untold sufferings from cold, hunger and sickness, successfully defended their beloved city throughout the critical period September 8, 1941 to January 18, 1943, and thus symbolized the undaunted spirit of the peoples of the Soviet -- Union of Soviet Socialist



Republics and of all the nations of the world resisting the forces of aggression."

And the scroll of the City of Stalingrad reads as follows:

(reading, not literally): "In the name of the -- in the name of the people of the United States of America, I present this scroll to the City of Stalingrad to commemorate our admiration for its gallant defenders whose courage, fortitude, and devotion during the siege of September 13, 1942 to January 31, 1943 will inspire forever the hearts of all free peoples. Their glorious victory stemmed the tide of invasion and marked the turning point in the war of the Allied Nations against the forces of aggression."

And to Stalin I sent a letter, saying: "I am sending to you two scrolls for Stalingrad and Leningrad, which cities have won the wholehearted admiration of the American people. The heroism of the citizens of these two cities and the soldiers who so ably defended them has not only been an inspiration to the people of the United States, but has served to bind even more closely the friendship of our two nations. Stalingrad and Leningrad have become synonyms for the fortitude and endurance which has enabled us to resist and will finally enable us to overcome the aggression of our enemies.

"I hope that in presenting these scrolls to the two cities you will see fit to convey to their citizens my own personal expressions of friendship and admiration and my hope that our people will continue to develop that close understanding



which has marked our common efforts."

And we are having photostats made -- (holding up the scroll facsimiles) -- of those -- of the scrolls themselves -- and Steve will have those in a very short time.

I saw this morning Dr. (H. H.) Kung, who is over here to talk to us all about various problems in regard to China. He leaves, at the end of this week, as the Chinese delegate to the Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods; and then he will probably come back in the course of the next two weeks to see me here again and talk over these problems. He is coming in tomorrow afternoon to see me for a more extended talk.

He brought with him a letter from the Generalissimo -- (holding it up) -- which I know you would all be glad to read -- (laughter) (written in Chinese) -- presenting Dr. Kung to me, who is an old -- an old friend of mine. And I think his conversations in regard to the conduct of the war in China, and the economics of things in China, will probably be very helpful.

Don't think I have got anything else.

Q. Is the -- is the Chinese Minister, Mr. President, seeking another financial aid loan for currency stabilization purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: Is he what?

Q. Is he seeking another financial loan for currency stabilization purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Haven't had any talk about that.



Q. Haven't had any?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything that can be said about the Democratic candidate for President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What? They saddled it on you today, did they? (more laughter) No, I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, has there been any reaction to your statement on postwar security organization about which you could tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further, I think, than what we had the other day. We haven't -- we haven't had any meeting with anybody yet since then.

Q. Have you had much reaction from the public to your -- to that?

THE PRESIDENT: A great many letters, all favorable so far.

Q. Mr. President, have you signed the Price Extension Act yet?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q. Price Extension Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think so.

MR. EARLY: Don't think so.

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. That -- that will be signed on -- on Thursday -- No, on Saturday -- first of July. There are various technical reasons for putting it in at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Q. Do you plan, Mr. President, to have a statement



on that Act at the time you sign it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, probably.

Q. There has been some discussion, Mr. President, that the C.C.C. (Commodity Credit Corporation) or some other Government agency may have to go ahead and purchase commodities, in order to bring them up to parity level. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't, No. You are getting too abstruse.

Q. Mr. President, in the reaction of the many letters that you received, re your plan for postwar security organization, was there any communication from Mr. Willkie?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't seen this afternoon's mail. I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything definitely about the prospects of the visit of De Gaulle?

THE PRESIDENT: I got a message asking whether it will be satisfactory if he came between the fifth and the ninth of July. And I haven't sent it yet, but I think at the present time it's in the process of being -- being sent, a message saying that that will be perfectly all right.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on the work of the French resistance movement in cooperation with our own effort in Normandy? General Marshall spoke about that yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't -- I haven't seen on it anything more, really, than you have seen: the reports



that have been made by the few people that have been in -- in there. I haven't got there yet myself.

MR. EARLY: (aside) Yet. Yet. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, did Admiral (Raymond) Fenard bring back the message of which you just spoke?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Came through Monsieur Hoppenot.

Q. I see.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Mr. President, did you say a minute ago that you hadn't got to Normandy yourself yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Yet. You know that. (laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: But the "yet," sir, does that imply that you might be going to Normandy soon? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am not talking in implications. I am merely -- the people in the back of the room, they don't know, but it's me -- (raising his voice) -- I'm here, and I haven't gone anywhere yet. That's why I put in "yet." But, as you know, I am perfectly unpredictable. (more laughter) After all these years, Merriman, you must know. I may be leaving tomorrow, but the chances are I am not. (more laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: Well, when you do leave, sir -- (continued laughter) -- are the chances that we will leave too?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You are pretty young. I would hate to take you into a position of extreme and grave danger, Merriman, you know.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. (more laughter)